the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
MARVEL
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SPENCER
OTTLEY
RATHBURN
MARTIN

Years ago as a high school student, PETER PARKER was bitten by a radioactive spider and gained the proportional speed, strength and agility of a SPIDER, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "SPIDER-SENSE"! After the tragic death of his Uncle Ben, Peter understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility. He became the crimefighting super hero called...

The Amazing SPIDER-MAN

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Spinning webs of various sizes, catching thieves like so many flies...es--it's all S.O.P. in your friendly neighborhood! Well, Peter Parker's neighborhood could stand to be friendlier--he's paycheck-to-paycheck again, which means an apartment with roommates. Let's see how Pete's holding up...

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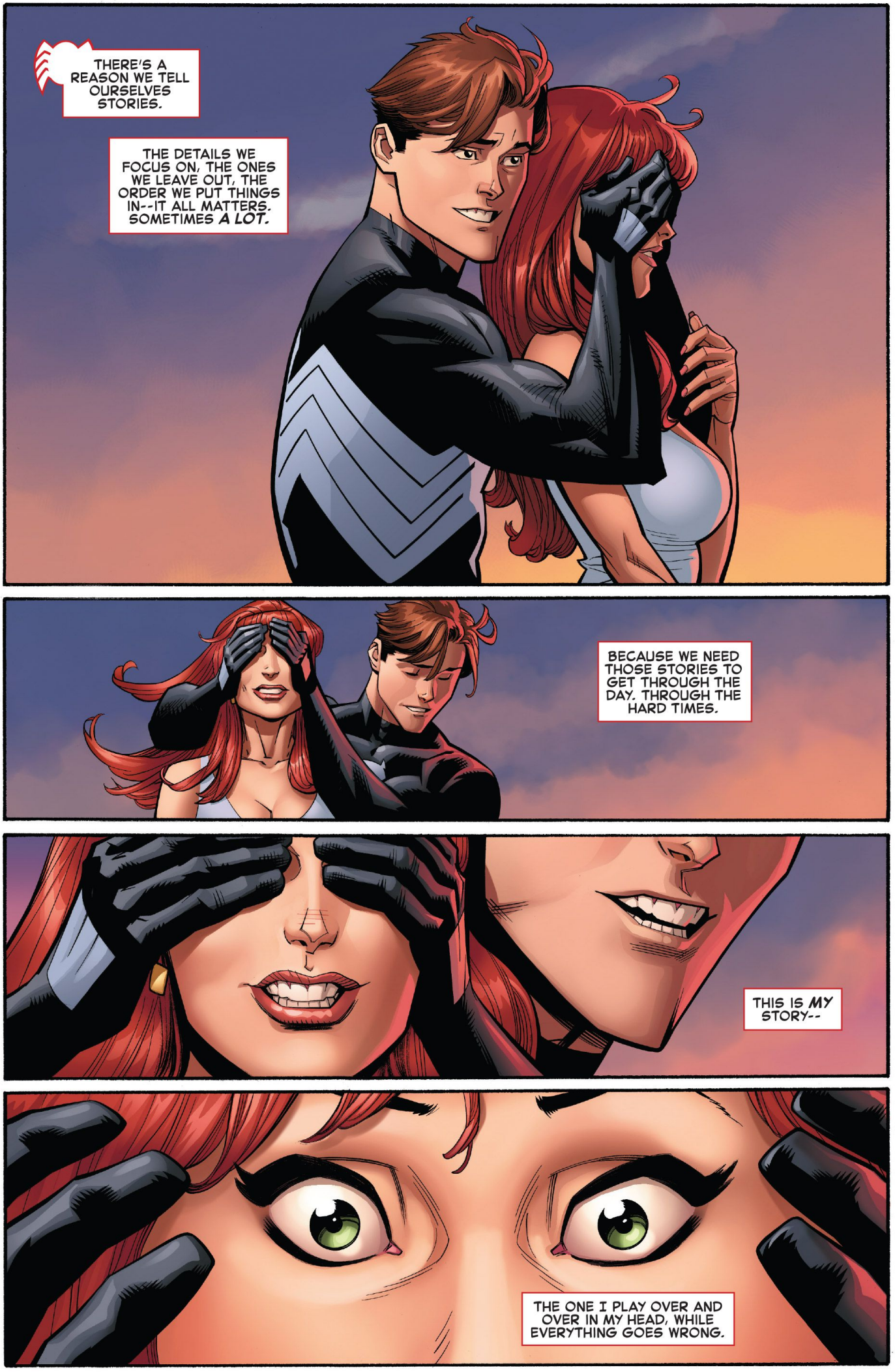
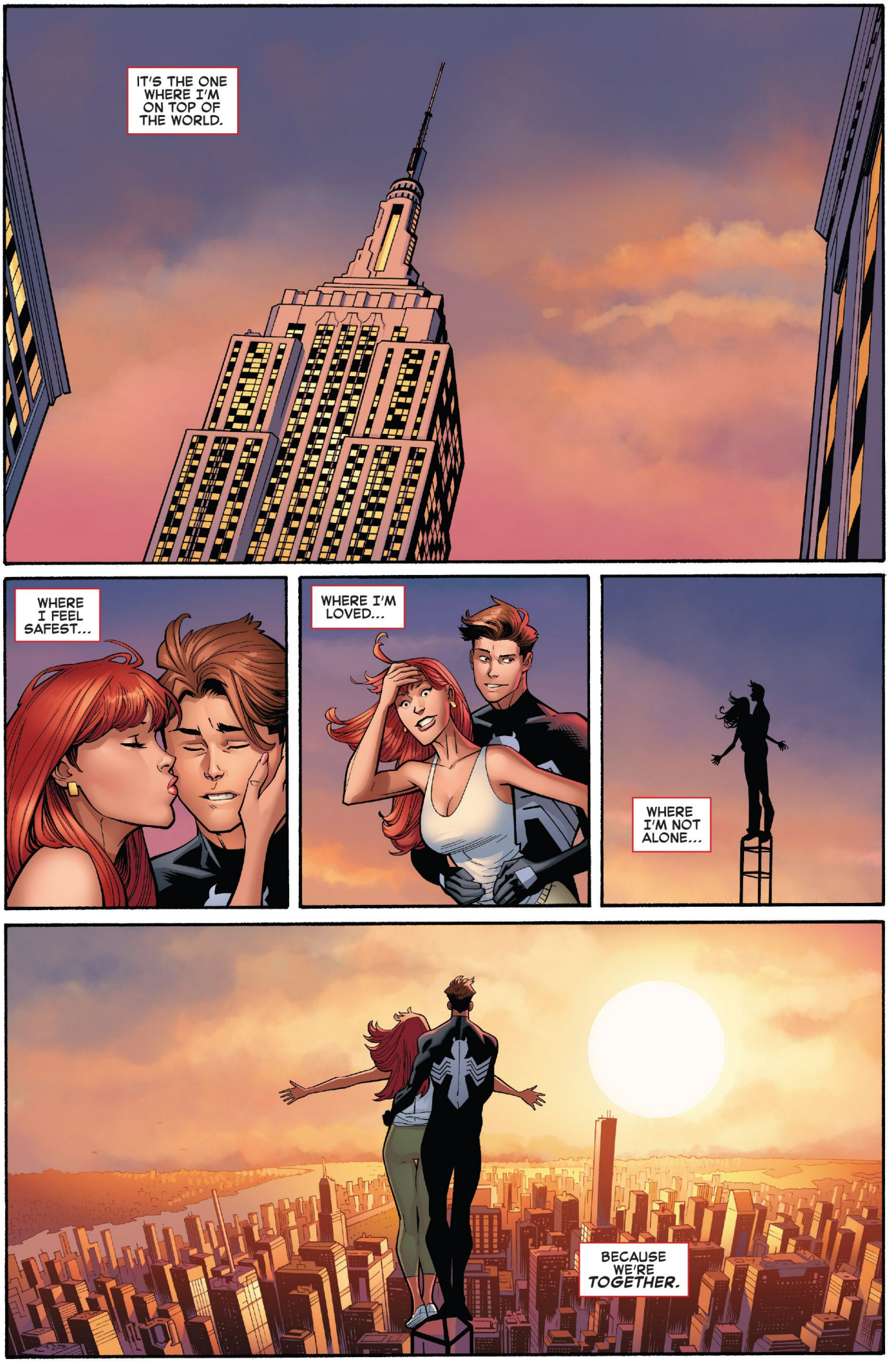
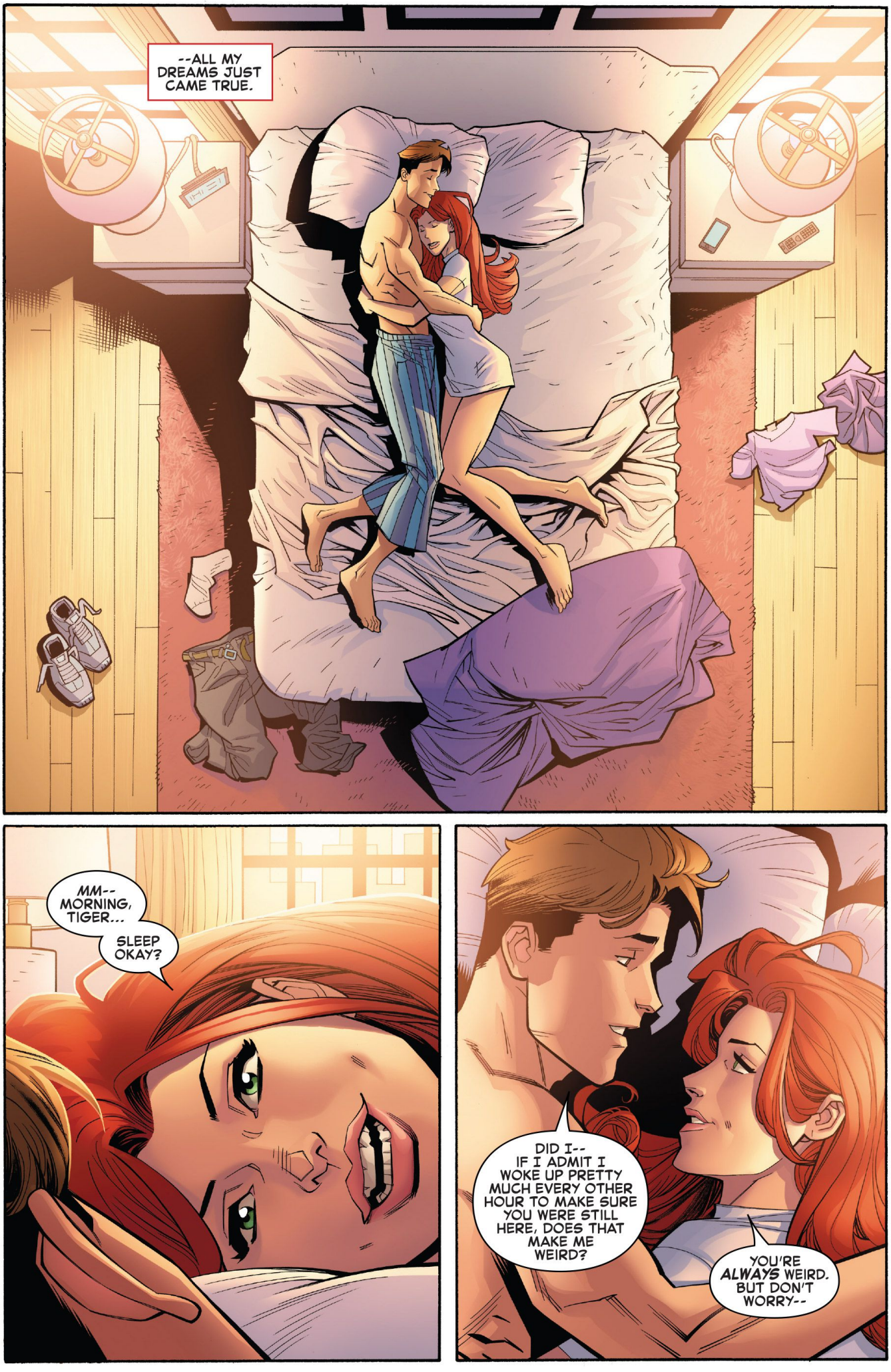
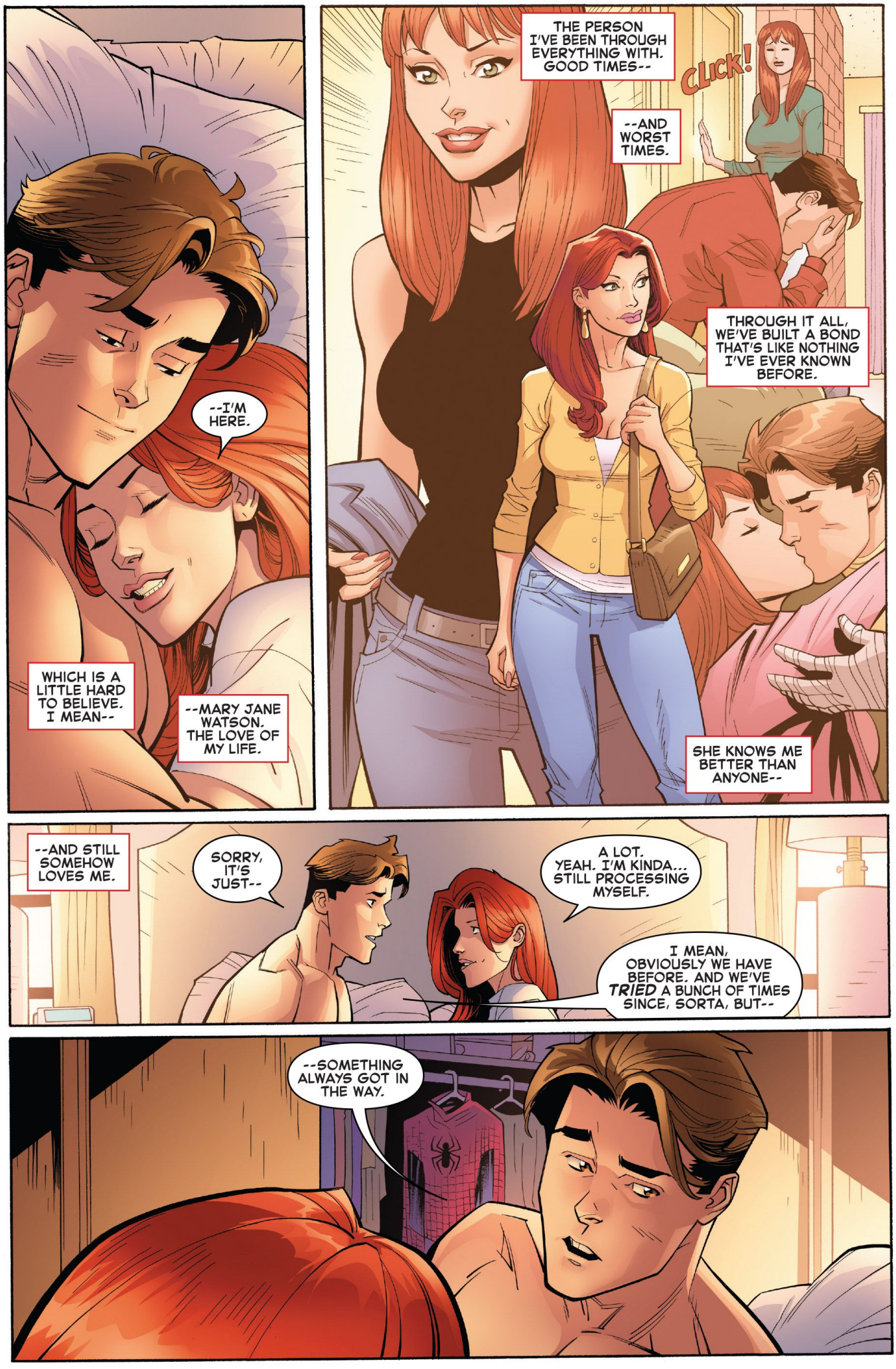
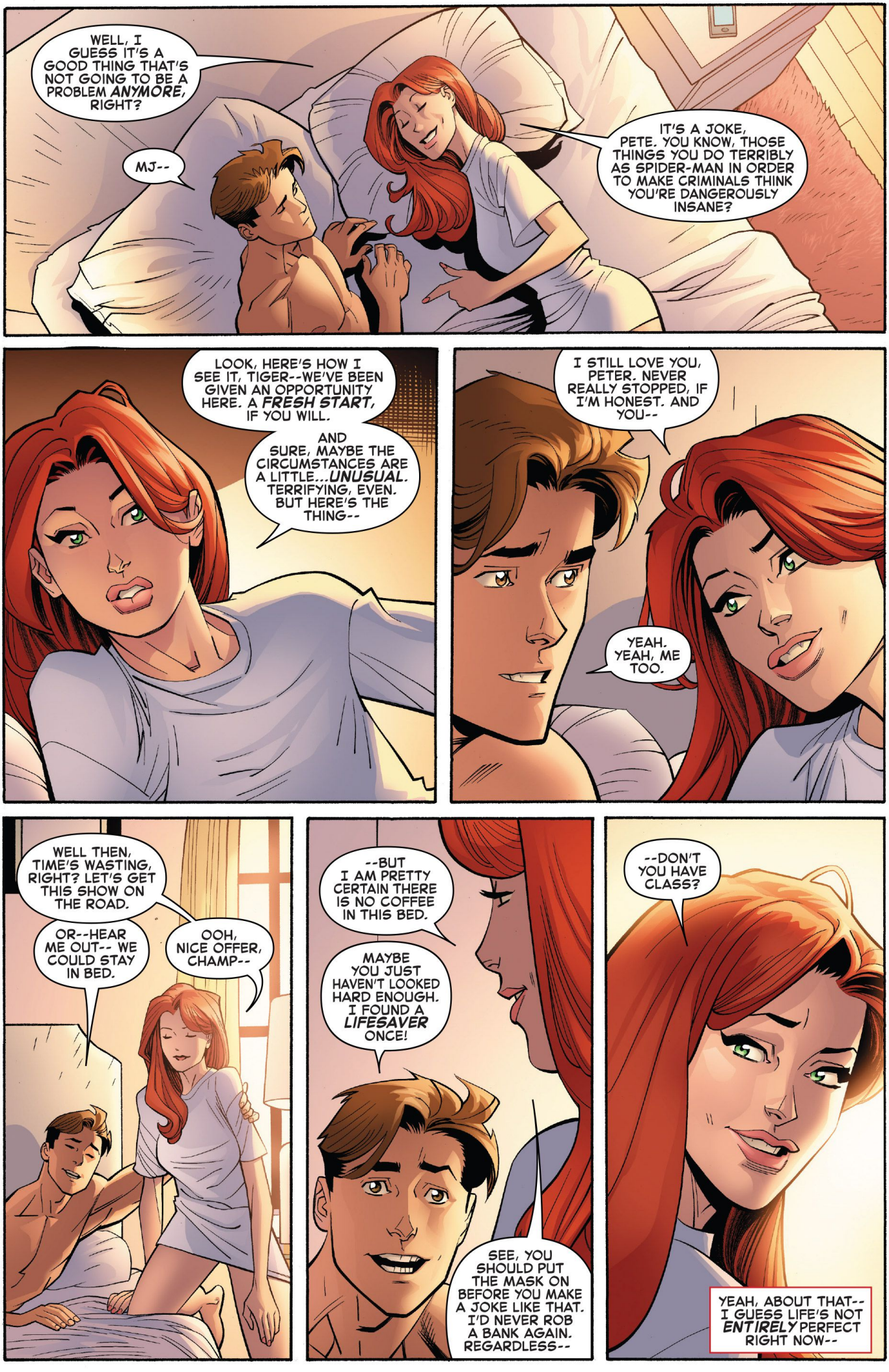
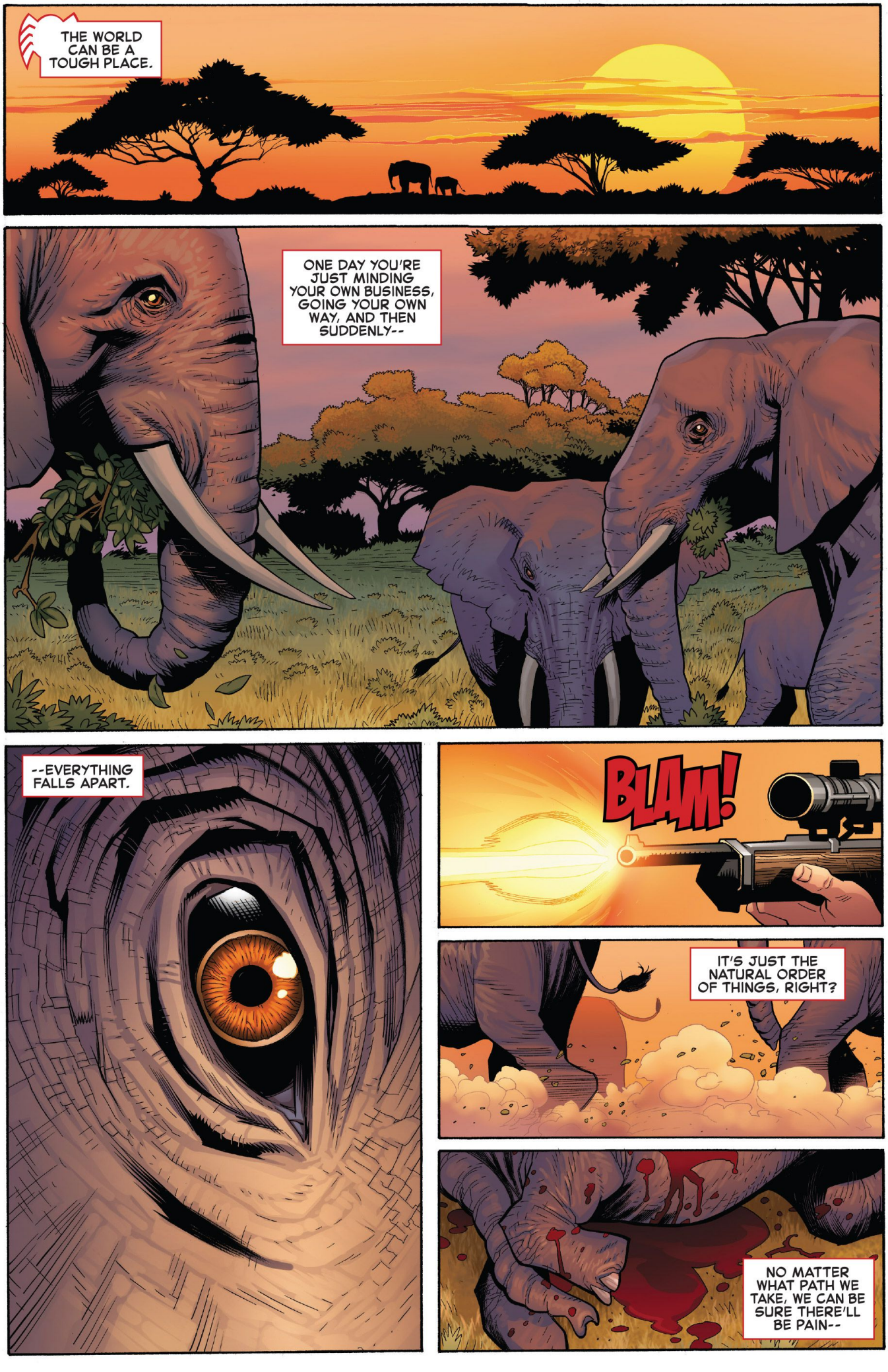

THERE'S A REASON WE TELL OURSELVES STORIES.
THE DETAILS WE FOCUS ON, THE ONES WE LEAVE OUT, THE ORDER WE PUT THINGS IN--IT ALL MATTERS. SOMETIMES A LOT.
BECAUSE WE NEED THOSE STORIES TO GET THROUGH THE DAY. THROUGH THE HARD TIMES.
THIS IS MY STORY--
THE ONE I PLAY OVER AND OVER IN MY HEAD, WHILE EVERYTHING GOES WRONG.


IT'S THE ONE WHERE I'M ON TOP OF THE WORLD.
WHERE I FEEL SAFEST...
WHERE I'M LOVED...
WHERE I'M NOT ALONE...
BECAUSE WE'RE TOGETHER.


--ALL MY DREAMS JUST CAME TRUE.
MM-- MORNING, TIGER...
SLEEP OKAY?
DID I-- IF I ADMIT I WOKE UP PRETTY MUCH EVERY OTHER HOUR TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE STILL HERE, DOES THAT MAKE ME WEIRD?
YOU'RE ALWAYS WEIRD. BUT DON'T WORRY--

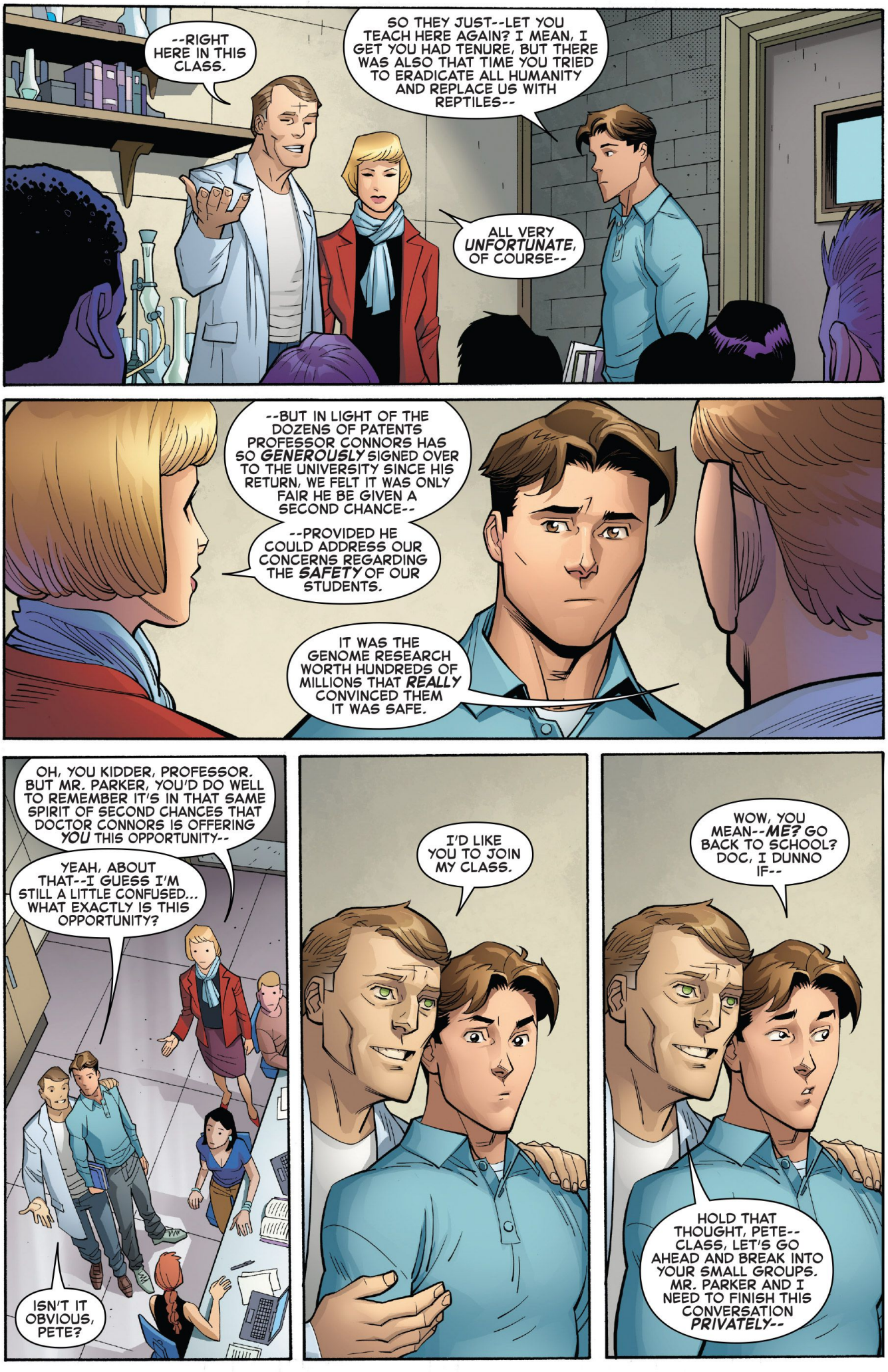

--I'M HERE.
WHICH IS A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE. I MEAN--
--MARY JANE WATSON. THE LOVE OF MY LIFE.
THE PERSON I'VE BEEN THROUGH EVERYTHING WITH. GOOD TIMES--
--AND WORST TIMES.
CLICK!
THROUGH IT ALL, WE'VE BUILT A BOND THAT'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER KNOWN BEFORE.
SHE KNOWS ME BETTER THAN ANYONE--
--AND STILL SOMEHOW LOVES ME.
SORRY, IT'S JUST--
A LOT. YEAH. I'M KINDA... STILL PROCESSING MYSELF.
I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE BEFORE. AND WE'VE *TRIED* A BUNCH OF TIMES SINCE, SORTA, BUT--
--SOMETHING ALWAYS GOT IN THE WAY.


WELL, I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE A PROBLEM ANYMORE, RIGHT?
MJ--
IT'S A JOKE, PETE. YOU KNOW, THOSE THINGS YOU DO TERRIBLY AS SPIDER-MAN IN ORDER TO MAKE CRIMINALS THINK YOU'RE DANGEROUSLY INSANE?
LOOK, HERE'S HOW I SEE IT, TIGER--WE'VE BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY HERE. A FRESH START, IF YOU WILL.
AND SURE, MAYBE THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE A LITTLE...UNUSUAL. TERRIFYING, EVEN. BUT HERE'S THE THING--
I STILL LOVE YOU, PETER. NEVER REALLY STOPPED, IF I'M HONEST. AND YOU--
YEAH. YEAH, ME TOO.
WELL THEN, TIME'S WASTING, RIGHT? LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.
OR--HEAR ME OUT-- WE COULD STAY IN BED.
OOH, NICE OFFER, CHAMP--
--BUT I AM PRETTY CERTAIN THERE IS NO COFFEE IN THIS BED.
MAYBE YOU JUST HAVEN'T LOOKED HARD ENOUGH. I FOUND A LIFESAVER ONCE!
SEE, YOU SHOULD PUT THE MASK ON BEFORE YOU MAKE A JOKE LIKE THAT. I'D NEVER ROB A BANK AGAIN. REGARDLESS--
--DON'T YOU HAVE CLASS?
YEAH, ABOUT THAT-- I GUESS LIFE'S NOT ENTIRELY PERFECT RIGHT NOW--


THE WORLD CAN BE A TOUGH PLACE.
ONE DAY YOU'RE JUST MINDING YOUR OWN BUSINESS, GOING YOUR OWN WAY, AND THEN SUDDENLY--
--EVERYTHING FALLS APART.
BLAM!
IT'S JUST THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS, RIGHT?
NO MATTER WHAT PATH WE TAKE, WE CAN BE SURE THERE'LL BE PAIN--

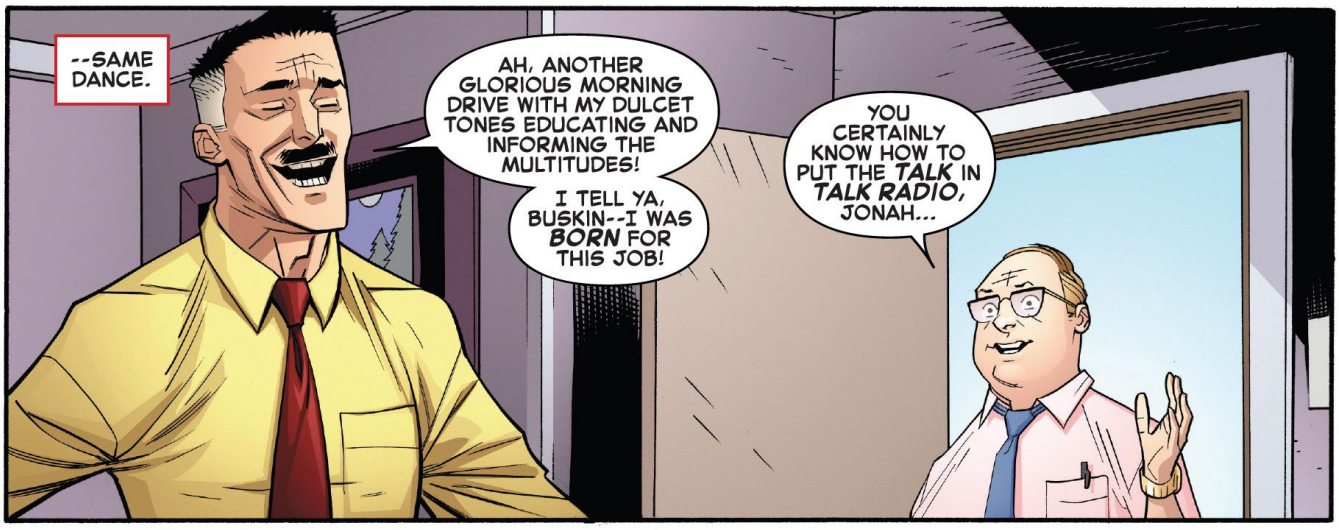
--SINCE I STILL HAVE THIS GUY TO DEAL WITH!
THE LIZARD, A.K.A. *DOCTOR CURT CONNORS.* ALL-AROUND GOOD GUY WHO TURNS INTO A NOT-AT-ALL-GOOD GIANT SEWER MONSTER WITH ALARMING REGULARITY.
AND NOW HE'S RUNNING WILD ON THE EMPIRE STATE CAMPUS!
OKAY, EVERYONE, *DON'T PANIC!* EXPERIENCED SUPER-VILLAIN ATTACK PERSON HERE! FIND YOUR NEAREST EXIT! MAKE YOURSELF BIG ON THE WAY OUT--HE'S MORE AFRAID OF YOU THAN YOU ARE OF--
HEY, DO YOU PEOPLE HEAR ME? STOP, DROP AND ROLL! THAT'S *THE LIZARD* UP THERE--
APOLOGIESSS, CLASSSS.
THIS IS ONE OF MY FORMER T.A.SSSS, PETER PARKER--
WAIT, WHY ARE YOU INTRODUCING ME? AND WHY ARE THEY NOT GETTING *EATEN?*
AHEM, MR. PARKER--

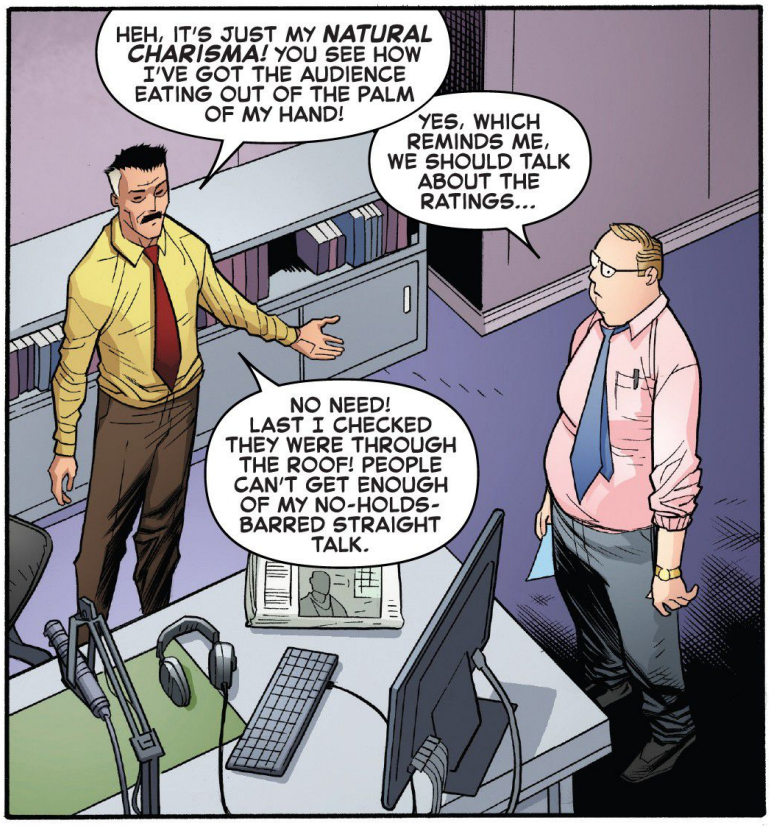
PROFESSOR CONNORS HERE IS NOT A THREAT TO ANYONE.
HE IS AN ESTEEMED MEMBER OF OUR FACULTY--
YEAH, THE FACULTY OF EVIL!
ONE SSSSECOND--
NNN-- THERE WE-- NFF--ARE THEN--
MAYBE THIS WILL MAKE THINGS A LITTLE EASIER.
DOC CONNORS! UM, SORRY FOR THE FREAK-OUT? I JUST--
IT'S ALL RIGHT, PETER. AND PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE, GIVEN PAST HISTORY. BUT THESE DAYS, I HAVE MY MUTATIONS INTO LIZARD FORM VERY MUCH UNDER CONTROL.
RIIIGHT...NO OFFENSE, DOC, BUT-- THIS ISN'T EXACTLY THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE THOUGHT THAT. ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYONE? MAYBE JUST A FINGER?
QUITE SURE, THANKS TO THIS--
--A SURGICALLY EMBEDDED, ADAMANTIUM-ENCASED INHIBITOR CHIP.
IF AS THE LIZARD, I TRY TO HARM ANY LIVING HUMAN BEING IN ANY WAY--IF I SO MUCH AS HISS IN THE WRONG DIRECTION--
--THE CHIP PARALYZES ME UNTIL I EVENTUALLY REVERT TO HUMAN FORM. IT'S A BREAKTHROUGH WE PIONEERED--


--RIGHT HERE IN THIS CLASS.
SO THEY JUST--LET YOU TEACH HERE AGAIN? I MEAN, I GET YOU HAD TENURE, BUT THERE WAS ALSO THAT TIME YOU TRIED TO ERADICATE ALL HUMANITY AND REPLACE US WITH REPTILES--
ALL VERY *UNFORTUNATE*, OF COURSE--
--BUT IN LIGHT OF THE DOZENS OF PATENTS PROFESSOR CONNORS HAS SO *GENEROUSLY* SIGNED OVER TO THE UNIVERSITY SINCE HIS RETURN, WE FELT IT WAS ONLY FAIR HE BE GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE--
--PROVIDED HE COULD ADDRESS OUR CONCERNS REGARDING THE *SAFETY* OF OUR STUDENTS.
IT WAS THE GENOME RESEARCH WORTH HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS THAT *REALLY* CONVINCED THEM IT WAS SAFE.
OH, YOU KIDDER, PROFESSOR. BUT MR. PARKER, YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER IT'S IN THAT SAME SPIRIT OF SECOND CHANCES THAT DOCTOR CONNORS IS OFFERING *YOU* THIS OPPORTUNITY--
YEAH, ABOUT THAT--I GUESS I'M STILL A LITTLE CONFUSED... WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS OPPORTUNITY?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, PETE?
I'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN MY CLASS.
WOW, YOU MEAN--*ME?* GO BACK TO SCHOOL? DOC, I DUNNO IF--
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, PETE-- CLASS, LET'S GO AHEAD AND BREAK INTO YOUR SMALL GROUPS. MR. PARKER AND I NEED TO FINISH THIS CONVERSATION *PRIVATELY*--

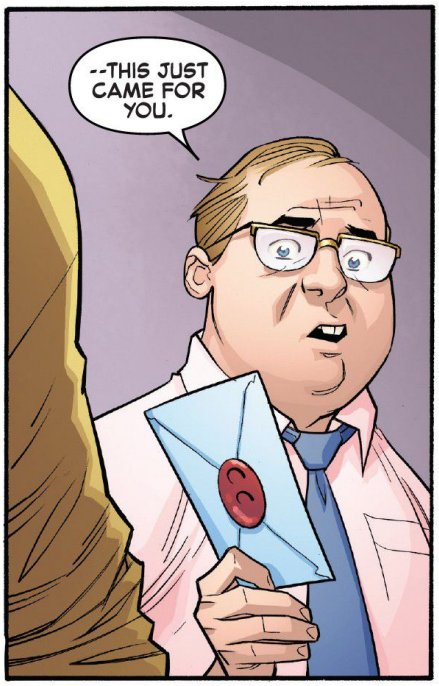
--SPIDER-MAN IS A HERO--
--OR MY NAME'S NOT J. JONAH JAMESON!

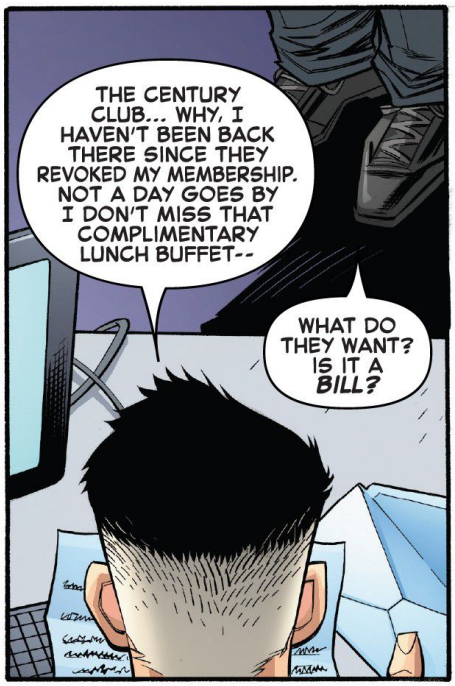
THAT'S RIGHT, J. JONAH JAMESON. FORMER PUBLISHER OF THE *DAILY BUGLE* AND MY OLD ARCHNEMESIS OF SORTS.
WE'VE RECENTLY HAD A CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIP STATUS--
--WHEN I REVEALED MY SECRET IDENTITY TO HIM OVER DINNER.
WHAT?! IT WAS A REALLY NICE DINNER! IT DID CHANGE EVERYTHING, BUT--
--IT'S BEEN A BLESSING AND A CURSE.
--EVERYONE IN THIS CITY OWES SPIDER-MAN A TREMENDOUS ***DEBT***, YOU HEAR ME? IT'S TIME PEOPLE KNEW THE ***FACTS!***
BUT... YOU ALWAYS SAID HE WAS THREAT AND A ***MENACE***--
I ALWAYS SAID? ARE YOU GONNA LISTEN TO WHAT I SAID, OR WHAT I'M SAYING?!
HOW MANY TIMES HAS HE SAVED YOUR UNGRATEFUL LIVES?! AND ALL YOU PEOPLE EVER GAVE HIM WAS GRIEF!
YOU GAVE HIM GRIEF--
NEXT CALLER!
YEP, THAT'S JONAH. NEW SONG--


--SAME DANCE.
AH, ANOTHER GLORIOUS MORNING DRIVE WITH MY DULCET TONES EDUCATING AND INFORMING THE MULTITUDES!
I TELL YA, BUSKIN--I WAS BORN FOR THIS JOB!
YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO PUT THE TALK IN TALK RADIO, JONAH...


HEH, IT'S JUST MY NATURAL CHARISMA! YOU SEE HOW I'VE GOT THE AUDIENCE EATING OUT OF THE PALM OF MY HAND!
YES, WHICH REMINDS ME, WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THE RATINGS...
NO NEED! LAST I CHECKED THEY WERE THROUGH THE ROOF! PEOPLE CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF MY NO-HOLDS-BARRED STRAIGHT TALK.

AND IT'S A GOOD THING! THAT COMMITMENT TO THE TRUTH IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER--WHAT WITH THIS CROOK WILSON FISK SITTING IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME--
NEW YORK'S FIN


--THIS JUST CAME FOR YOU.


THE CENTURY CLUB... WHY, I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK THERE SINCE THEY REVOKED MY MEMBERSHIP. NOT A DAY GOES BY I DON'T MISS THAT COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH BUFFET--
WHAT DO THEY WANT? IS IT A BILL?

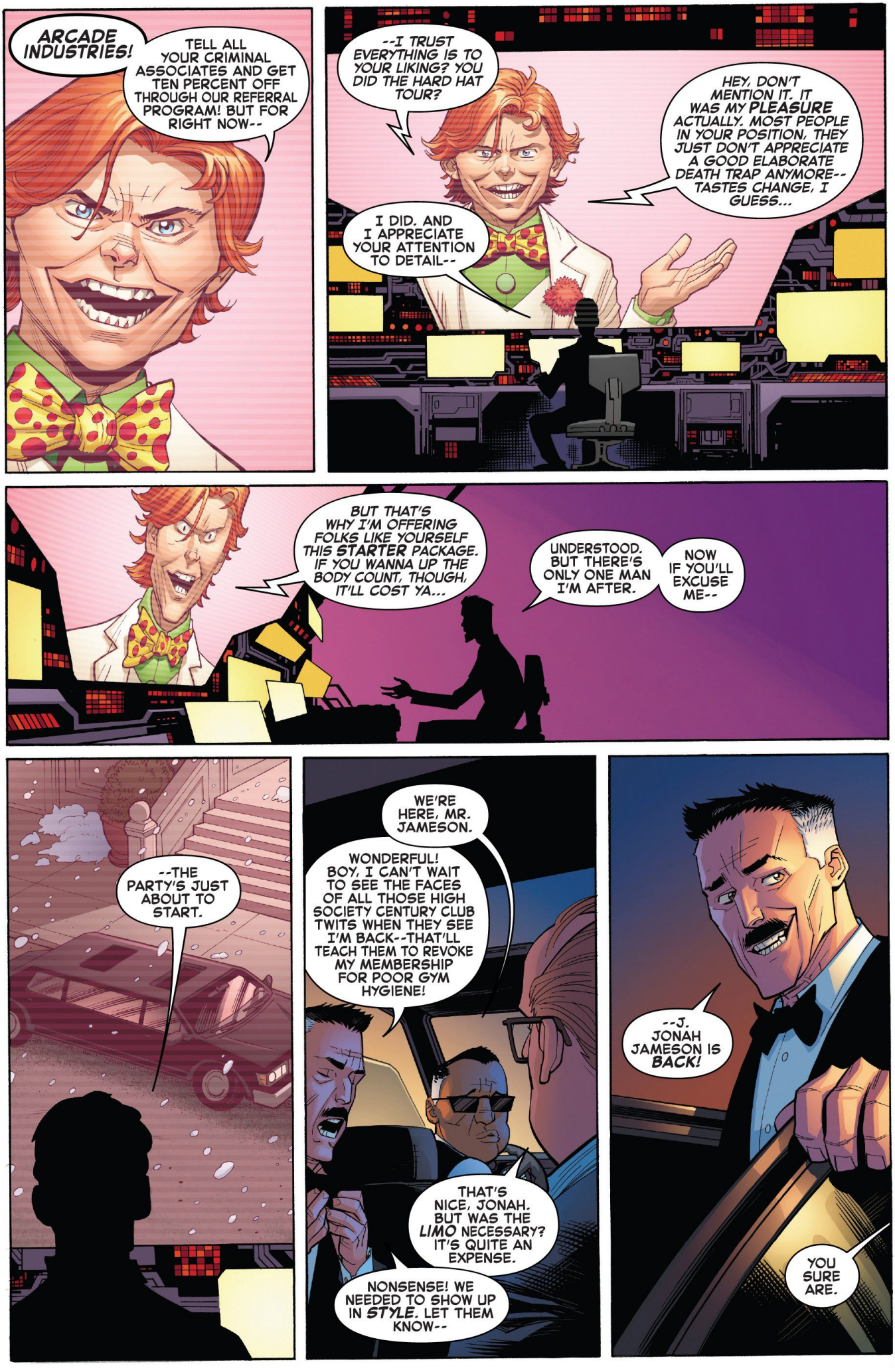
NO--IT'S AN INVITATION FROM THE MAYOR TO A BANQUET--
--IN MY HONOR.

I WILL, OF COURSE, BE ON HAND PERSONALLY TO PRESENT YOU WITH AN AWARD COMMENDING YOUR DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND TO REGALE THE AUDIENCE WITH STORIES OF YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND MONUMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
SOUNDS GREAT, SIR.
HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO GENERATE THE MOST PUBLICITY POSSIBLE FOR THIS PRESTIGIOUS EVENT, OUR OFFICE DID HAVE AN IDEA. WE'D LIKE YOUR NEWFOUND FRIEND SPIDER-MAN TO ATTEND AS WELL, AND INTRODUCE YOU ON STAGE.
I'M CERTAIN, GIVEN YOUR INFLUENCE AND CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE WALL-CRAWLER, HE'LL BE THRILLED TO OBLIGE. I'VE EVEN SET ASIDE SOME TIME FOR THE THREE OF US TO HAVE SOME PICTURES TAKEN TOGETHER. TWO GREAT NEW YORK CITY MAYORS AND THE HERO WHO SERVES THEM.
YES, WHAT AN EVENING IT WILL BE...FOR ALL OF US!

CONGRATULATIONS, JONAH...
CONGRATULATIONS IS RIGHT! A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-- EVEN AT MY YOUNG AGE! WHAT AN HONOR!
IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEONE POINTS OUT HOW MUCH GOOD I'VE DONE FOR THIS CITY. IT'S LIKE I WAS JUST TELLING YOU, BUSHKIN--

Jameson stepped down from the office of mayor after the events of "spider-island" -zig-zaggin Zar.

YOU HEAR ME, SPIDER-MAN?!
JAMESON WANTS SPIDER-MAN TO PRESENT HIM WITH AN AWARD FROM THE KINGPIN?!
THIS IS WHY THE INVESTORS WON'T COME NEAR THE BUGLE. TRY AS I MIGHT, WE'RE STILL ASSOCIATED WITH JONAH'S ANTICS.
MEANWHILE, CIRCULATION KEEPS DROPPING BECAUSE WE DON'T TRAFFIC IN HIS TABLOID SENSATIONALISM ANYMORE. IT'S A LOSE-LOSE SITUATION.
NOT TO MENTION THE MAN WON'T EVEN SPEAK TO ME, SINCE HE STILL BELIEVES IT'S "HIS" PAPER. IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT HIMSELF WITH JONAH...
GEEZ, ROBBIE--I'M-- I'M REALLY SORRY. BUT THIS REMINDS ME--
--I'M NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO STAY AS LONG AS I'D LIKE. UM, AUNT MAY NEEDS ME--
--TO SET J. JONAH JAMESON STRAIGHT ON SOME THINGS!
OH NO, NOT YOU, TOO! MARTHA IS AWAY VISITING HER SISTER--
--AND NOW THIS ONE SAYS HE'S DITCHING ME FOR A HOT DATE! WHO AM I GONNA WATCH IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE WITH?
SORRY, POP. THIS ONE'S A KEEPER. BUT I DID WASTE AWAY ALL AFTERNOON IN THE KITCHEN ON THIS TURKEY FOR YOU.
YOU JUST GOTTA EAT IT FAST, IS ALL.
YOU HEAR THAT? PETE, YOU'RE HIS ROOMIE, WHO'S THIS GIRL RANDY WON'T STOP NOT TALKING ABOUT?
WISH I COULD TELL YOU, SIR...
ALL RIGHT THEN, KNUCKLEHEADS. SEEING AS YOU'RE SO BUSY--
--LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF OUR TIME TOGETHER.
NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT. FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND--


ARCADE INDUSTRIES!
TELL ALL YOUR CRIMINAL ASSOCIATES AND GET TEN PERCENT OFF THROUGH OUR REFERRAL PROGRAM! BUT FOR RIGHT NOW--
--I TRUST EVERYTHING IS TO YOUR LIKING? YOU DID THE HARD HAT TOUR?
I DID. AND I APPRECIATE YOUR ATTENTION TO DETAIL--
HEY, DON'T MENTION IT. IT WAS MY PLEASURE ACTUALLY. MOST PEOPLE IN YOUR POSITION, THEY JUST DON'T APPRECIATE A GOOD ELABORATE DEATH TRAP ANYMORE-- TASTES CHANGE, I GUESS...
BUT THAT'S WHY I'M OFFERING FOLKS LIKE YOURSELF THIS STARTER PACKAGE. IF YOU WANNA UP THE BODY COUNT, THOUGH, IT'LL COST YA...
UNDERSTOOD. BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN I'M AFTER.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--
--THE PARTY'S JUST ABOUT TO START.
WE'RE HERE, MR. JAMESON.
WONDERFUL! BOY, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE FACES OF ALL THOSE HIGH SOCIETY CENTURY CLUB TWITS WHEN THEY SEE I'M BACK--THAT'LL TEACH THEM TO REVOKE MY MEMBERSHIP FOR POOR GYM HYGIENE!
THAT'S NICE, JONAH. BUT WAS THE LIMO NECESSARY? IT'S QUITE AN EXPENSE.
NONSENSE! WE NEEDED TO SHOW UP IN STYLE. LET THEM KNOW--
--J. JONAH JAMESON IS BACK!
YOU SURE ARE.

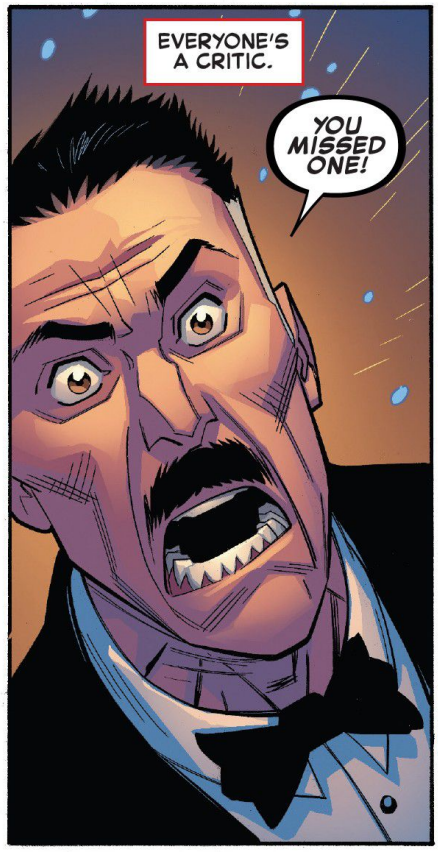
WHY, THIS IS JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS, IF YOU ASK ME.
SPIDER-MAN! WHY YOU--
YOU WHAT?!
YOU INVITED ME HERE, REMEMBER, JONAH?
OH, RIGHT. FORCE OF HABIT.
IT'S FINE--
--BUT WE DO NEED TO TALK.
I THOUGHT THEY WAS FRIENDS NOW.
I THINK IT'S A PRETTY... UNUSUAL RELATIONSHIP.

WHAT DO YOU WANT? MAKE IT QUICK, WE NEED TO GET IN THERE BEFORE THE COMPTROLLER HOGS ALL THE GOOD CHARCUTERIE.
I'M NOT GOING IN THERE. THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TELL YOU, JONAH.
WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU OWE ME, PARKER--
HEY, KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN WITH THE ARKER-PAY! I OWE YOU? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
YOU'RE DARN RIGHT YOU DO! ALL I'VE TRIED TO DO SINCE I LEARNED YOUR DIRTY LITTLE SECRET IS HELP YOU! YOU NEED ME!
I'M OUT THERE EVERY DAY TRYING TO REPAIR YOUR DISASTER OF A REPUTATION--
MY--YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DISASTERED IT IN THE FIRST PLACE--
BYGONES! I'M DOING MY BEST TO MAKE THAT RIGHT. BUT YOU--YOU WON'T EVEN RETURN MY CALLS ANYMORE. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE PARTNERS!
LOOK, JONAH, I TOLD YOU... THINGS ARE JUST A LITTLE CRAZY RIGHT NOW. I NEED TO FIGURE HOW THIS WOULD WORK--
LET ME TELL YOU HOW PARTNERSHIPS WORK, THEN, KID--WHEN I ASK YOU FOR ONE MEASLY FAVOR, YOU COME THROUGH!
SIGH I WISH I COULD, JJ, BUT--COME ON, DUDE, IT'S THE KINGPIN!
HE'S YOUR MAYOR! BESIDES--
--I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'D BE SO UPSET ABOUT THAT. I'VE SEEN THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN COZYING UP WITH FISK SINCE HE GOT ELECTED.
WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP SAYING THAT?!

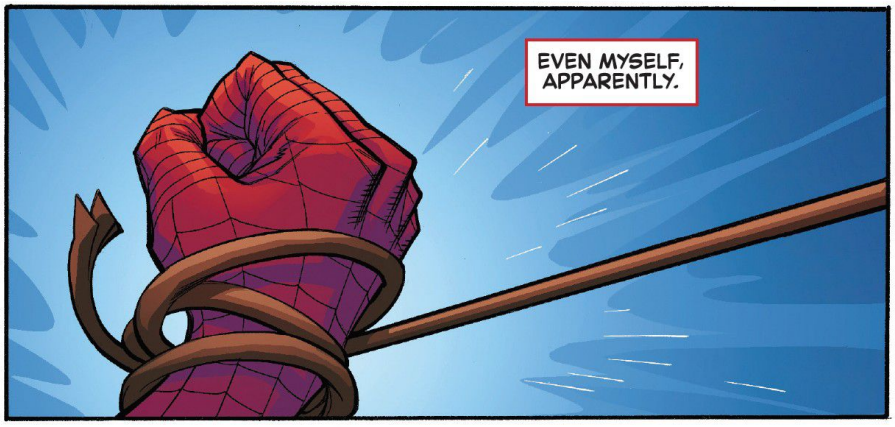
WILSON FISK IS A CRIMINAL AND A MONSTER. FOR ALMOST AS LONG AS I'VE BEEN SPIDER-MAN, I'VE BEEN FIGHTING HIM.
HOW CAN PEOPLE THINK I WOULD EVER BE ON HIS SIDE?
WHY DO YOU KEEP LOOKING BEHIND ME?
SERIOUSLY, IF YOU TRUST ME ON ONE THING, MAKE IT THIS--NO MATTER WHAT HE OFFERED ME, NO MATTER WHAT HE PROMISED--
--I WOULD NEVER BE CAUGHT DEAD STANDING NEXT TO THE KINGPIN. I HATE THE GUY.
I ♥ FISK
RE-ELECT FISK
...THAT'S PHOTOSHOP.
WELL, TOO BAD! I'M NOT GONNA MISS MY MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT OVER SOME PETTY GRUDGE YOU'RE NURSING!
IT'S HIGH TIME I WAS RECOGNIZED FOR ALL MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS! AT LEAST SOMEONE SEES THAT!
UNBELIEVABLE, IT'S JUST LIKE ROBBIE SAID, IT REALLY IS ALWAYS ABOUT YOU...
ROBBIE ROBERTSON?! THAT TURNCOAT! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU WERE IN CAHOOTS WITH HIM--THAT MAN STOLE THE DAILY BUGLE FROM ME!
YOU GAVE IT TO HIM!
AND THEN HE TURNED AROUND AND REFUSED TO PUBLISH MY HARD-HITTING INVESTIGATION INTO YOUR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES!
WELL, TOO BAD! EVEN THOUGH NOBODY EVEN READS THAT PAPER SINCE I LEFT! HE'S UNGRATEFUL--
--JUST LIKE YOU! WELL, I DON'T NEED EITHER OF YOU. FROM HERE ON OUT, J. JONAH JAMESON WALKS ALONE.
OR...
...HE DOESN'T WALK AT ALL.

WEBS. JAMESON.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE ENFORCERS.
HO HO HO.
SPIDER-MAN! GET THEM!
SIGH "GET THEM"?
OKAY, FINE--BUT NOT BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME TO.
THE ENFORCERS.
AN OLD-SCHOOL TRIO OF MOB HEAVIES WHO ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THEY ROBBED THE WORLD'S LAMEST COSTUME SHOP.
THEY WERE SOME OF THE FIRST BAD GUYS I EVER FACED AS SPIDER-MAN--

--I LIKE TO THINK I'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THEN.
THEN AGAIN, *THESE* DAYS?


EVERYONE'S A CRITIC.
YOU MISSED ONE!

MISSED-- JONAH, GET BACK IN THE LIMO! I CAN'T KEEP AN EYE ON--

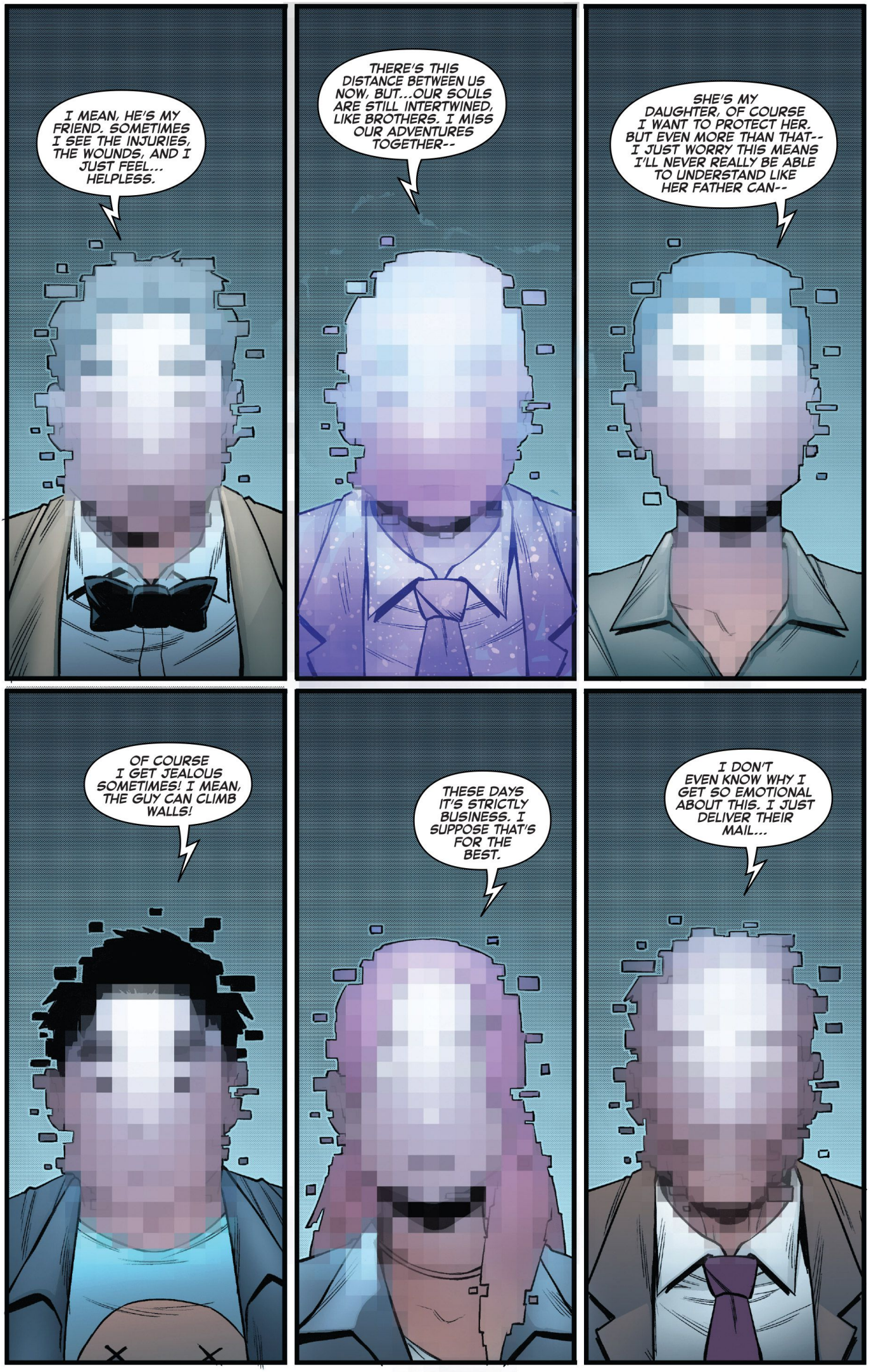

EVEN MYSELF, APPARENTLY.

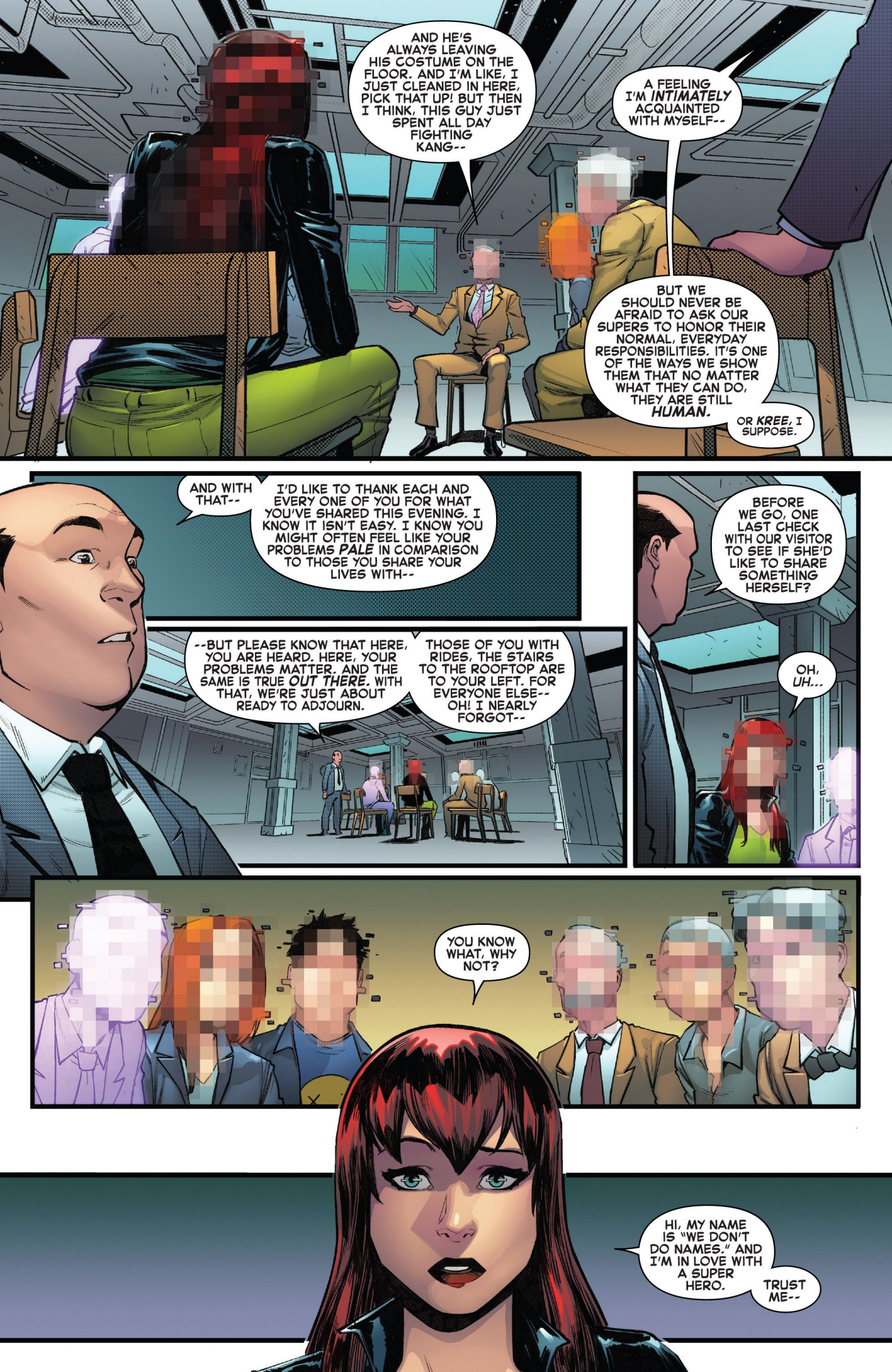
SO YEAH, THIS IS HOW WHAT *SHOULD* BE AN EASY FIGHT--
GETS *COMPLICATED.* EVERY TIME I GET THE UPPER HAND, I GET THIS IN MY EAR--
WATCH OUT BEHIND YOU, YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION!
WHICH I'LL ADMIT--
--IS STARTING TO GET ME ANGRY!
JONAH, WHAT DID I SAY?! BACK IN THE LIMO!
STILL A TOUGH LITTLE *HOMBRE,* AIN'T HE?
HUFF-- TIRED OF THE TWERP, MYSELF. FEELS LIKE NOTHIN' WE EVER DO CAN PUT HIM DOWN.
THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU BOYS ARE GOING ABOUT IT ALL WRONG. REMEMBER. IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM--

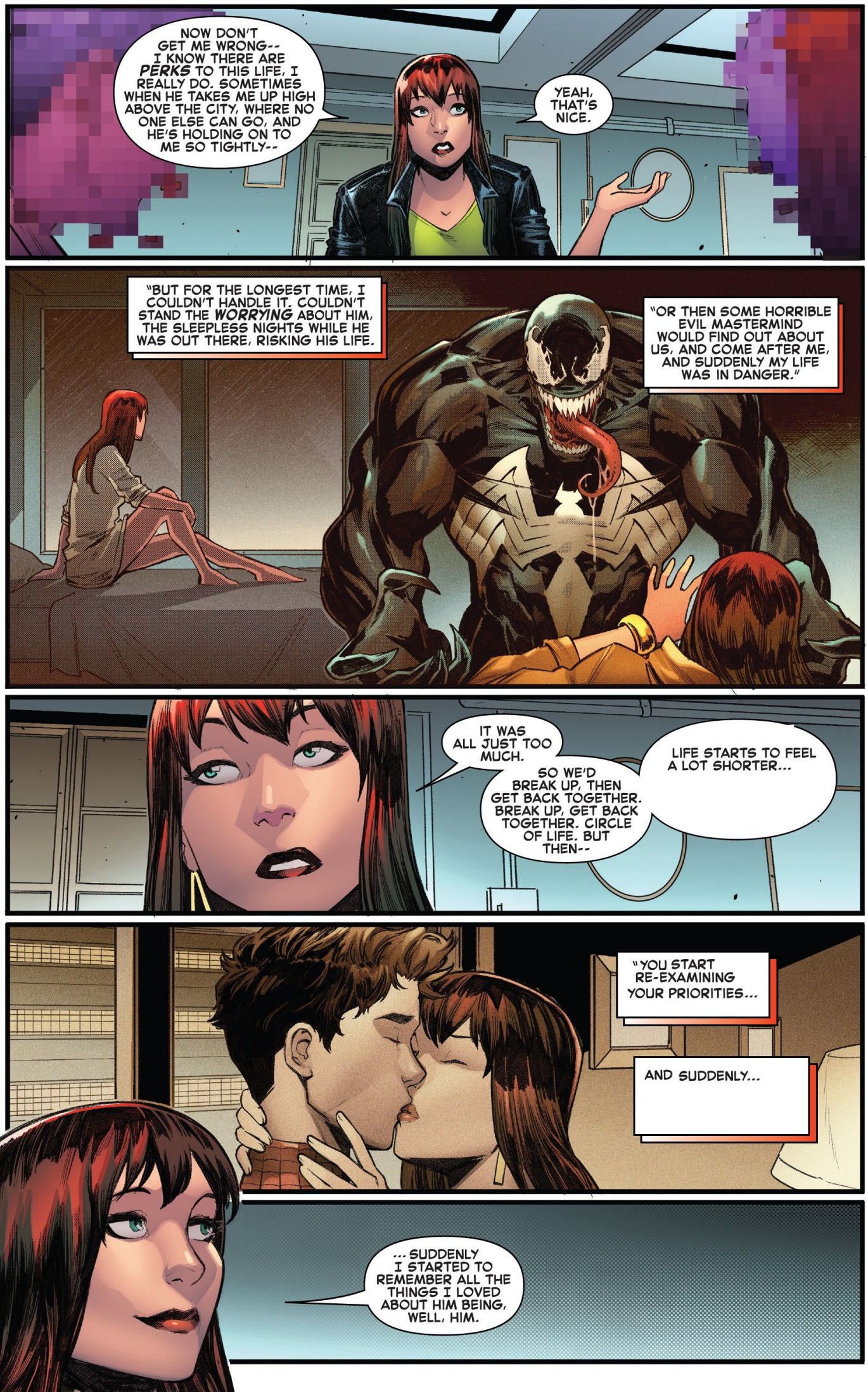
--GIVE 'EM SOMETHIN' TO MOURN.
JONAH!
SEE?
THIS IS WHY I DON'T WANT A PARTNER.
SOME COJONES ON YOU, FANCY DAN.
EH, NOT REALLY. SHOOTING BLANKS. AFTER ALL--

"--BOSS WANTS 'EM ALIVE FOR THE NEXT PART."
WAKE UP!
JUST LIKE YOUR LAZY GENERATION, SLEEPING ON THE JOB.
UGH... THROWBACK THURSDAYS WERE A MISTAKE...
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER. WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A PLAN. YOU GOT US INTO THIS MESS, NOW YOU NEED TO GET US OUT.
UHH, JONAH--
--I DON'T THINK THIS ONE'S MY FAULT...
J. JONAH JAMESON--

--THIS IS YOUR STORY!

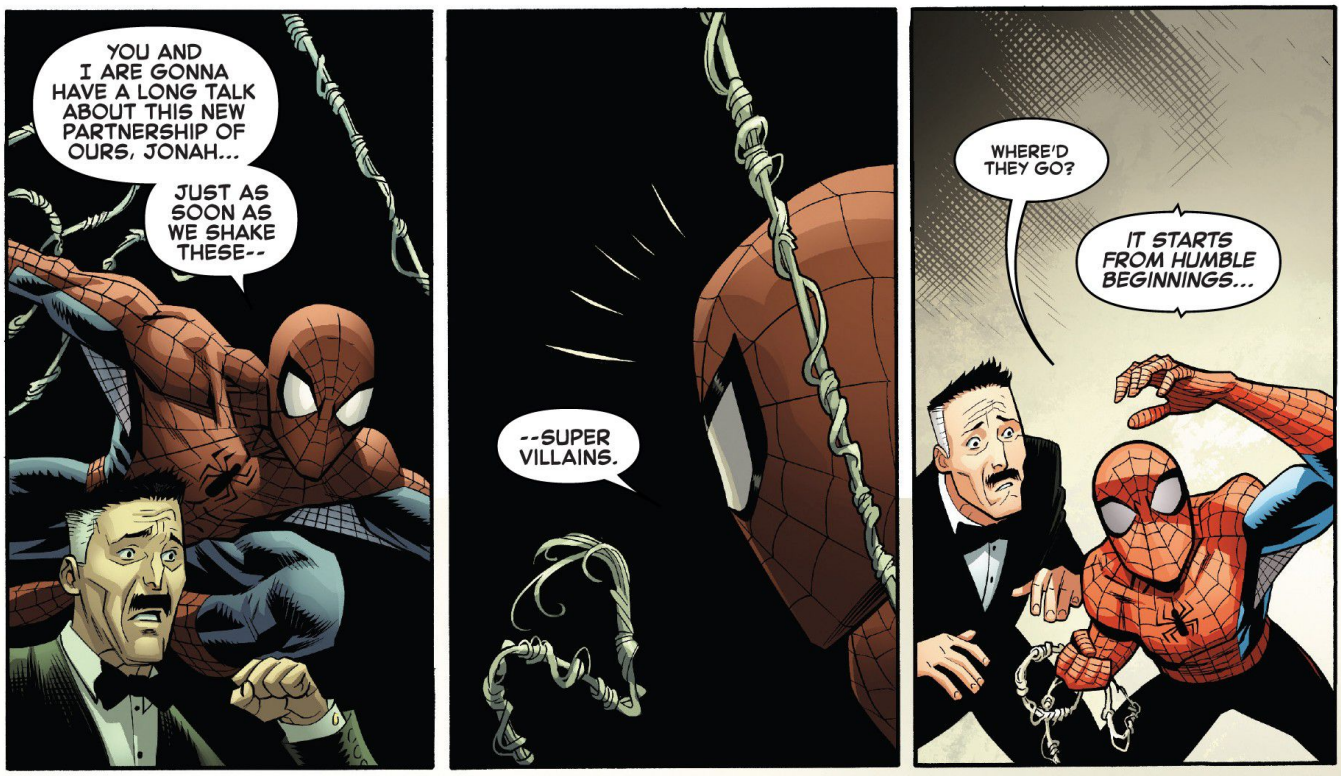

I MEAN, HE'S MY FRIEND. SOMETIMES I SEE THE INJURIES, THE WOUNDS, AND I JUST FEEL... HELPLESS.
THERE'S THIS DISTANCE BETWEEN US NOW, BUT...OUR SOULS ARE STILL INTERTWINED, LIKE BROTHERS. I MISS OUR ADVENTURES TOGETHER--
SHE'S MY DAUGHTER, OF COURSE I WANT TO PROTECT HER. BUT EVEN MORE THAN THAT-- I JUST WORRY THIS MEANS I'LL NEVER REALLY BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND LIKE HER FATHER CAN--
OF COURSE I GET JEALOUS SOMETIMES! I MEAN, THE GUY CAN CLIMB WALLS!
THESE DAYS IT'S STRICTLY BUSINESS. I SUPPOSE THAT'S FOR THE BEST.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I GET SO EMOTIONAL ABOUT THIS. I JUST DELIVER THEIR MAIL...


AND HE'S ALWAYS LEAVING HIS COSTUME ON THE FLOOR. AND I'M LIKE, I JUST CLEANED IN HERE, PICK THAT UP! BUT THEN I THINK, THIS GUY JUST SPENT ALL DAY FIGHTING KANG--
A FEELING I'M *INTIMATELY* ACQUAINTED WITH MYSELF--
BUT WE SHOULD NEVER BE AFRAID TO ASK OUR SUPERS TO HONOR THEIR NORMAL, EVERYDAY RESPONSIBILITIES. IT'S ONE OF THE WAYS WE SHOW THEM THAT NO MATTER WHAT THEY CAN DO, THEY ARE STILL *HUMAN.*
OR *KREE,* I SUPPOSE.
AND WITH THAT--
I'D LIKE TO THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE SHARED THIS EVENING. I KNOW IT ISN'T EASY. I KNOW YOU MIGHT OFTEN FEEL LIKE YOUR PROBLEMS *PALE* IN COMPARISON TO THOSE YOU SHARE YOUR LIVES WITH--
--BUT PLEASE KNOW THAT HERE, YOU ARE HEARD. HERE, YOUR PROBLEMS MATTER. AND THE SAME IS TRUE *OUT THERE.* WITH THAT, WE'RE JUST ABOUT READY TO ADJOURN.
THOSE OF YOU WITH RIDES, THE STAIRS TO THE ROOFTOP ARE TO YOUR LEFT. FOR EVERYONE ELSE-- OH! I NEARLY FORGOT--
BEFORE WE GO, ONE LAST CHECK WITH OUR VISITOR TO SEE IF SHE'D LIKE TO SHARE SOMETHING HERSELF?
OH, *UH...*
YOU KNOW WHAT, WHY NOT?
HI, MY NAME IS "WE DON'T DO NAMES." AND I'M IN LOVE WITH A SUPER HERO.
TRUST ME--


NOW DON'T GET ME WRONG-- I KNOW THERE ARE PERKS TO THIS LIFE, I REALLY DO. SOMETIMES WHEN HE TAKES ME UP HIGH ABOVE THE CITY, WHERE NO ONE ELSE CAN GO, AND HE'S HOLDING ON TO ME SO TIGHTLY--
YEAH, THAT'S NICE.
"BUT FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I COULDN'T HANDLE IT. COULDN'T STAND THE WORRYING ABOUT HIM, THE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS WHILE HE WAS OUT THERE, RISKING HIS LIFE.
"OR THEN SOME HORRIBLE EVIL MASTERMIND WOULD FIND OUT ABOUT US, AND COME AFTER ME, AND SUDDENLY MY LIFE WAS IN DANGER."
IT WAS ALL JUST TOO MUCH.
SO WE'D BREAK UP, THEN GET BACK TOGETHER. BREAK UP, GET BACK TOGETHER. CIRCLE OF LIFE. BUT THEN--
LIFE STARTS TO FEEL A LOT SHORTER...
"YOU START RE-EXAMINING YOUR PRIORITIES...
AND SUDDENLY...
... SUDDENLY I STARTED TO REMEMBER ALL THE THINGS I LOVED ABOUT HIM BEING, WELL, HIM.

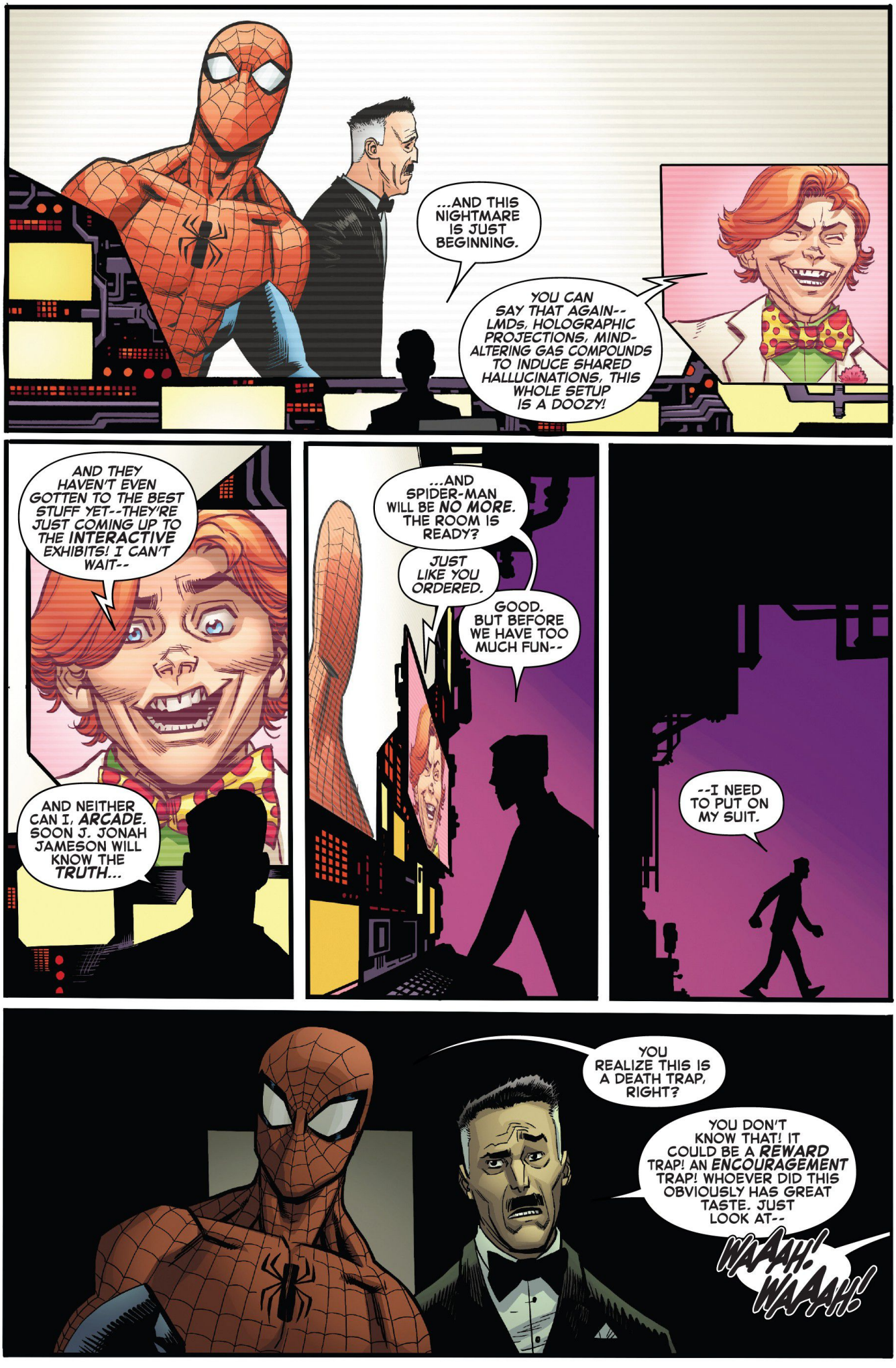
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SPEAKING TO THE GROUP. MOST IMPRESSIVE.
THANKS, JARVIS. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WAS ON ANY KIND OF STAGE, I GUESS.
I'M A BUTLER, YOU KNOW.
UHH... YEAH, I'M AWARE.
AND YET-- I BELIEVE MYSELF TO BE INDISPENSABLE TO THESE HEROES I SERVE.
I BELIEVE THAT BECAUSE I TREAT THEM WITH KINDNESS. I CARE FOR THEM, AND I AM ALWAYS THERE IF THEY NEED ME.
I CAN NEVER FLY WITH THEM OR JOIN THEIR BATTLES, BUT THAT MAKES ME NO LESS WORTHY OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP.
I THINK I GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS...
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE DOUSED IN GAMMA RAYS OR ENCASED IN ARMOR TO BE A GOOD PARTNER. YOU ALREADY ARE.
YOU MENTIONED HIS SENSE OF HUMOR, BUT HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT THE REASON HE CAN BE UPBEAT IN THE FACE OF SO MUCH ADVERSITY...
...IS BECAUSE HE HAS YOU? A WOMAN OF IMPECCABLE CHARACTER AND STRENGTH.
WHOEVER THAT LUCKY HERO IS, YOUNG LADY, I ASSURE YOU--
--YOU ARE INDISPENSABLE.

ME AND J. JONAH JAMESON HAVE BEEN THROUGH A *LOT* TOGETHER.
DESPITE BEING SWORN ENEMIES FOR THE LONGEST TIME, WE HAD AN ANNOYING KNACK FOR NEEDING TO BAIL EACH OTHER OUT OF THE DIREST SITUATIONS.
STILL, NONE OF THOSE CAN QUITE COMPARE TO *THIS,* I'D ARGUE.
AFTER ALL--


YOU AND I ARE GONNA HAVE A LONG TALK ABOUT THIS NEW PARTNERSHIP OF OURS, JONAH...
JUST AS SOON AS WE SHAKE THESE--
--SUPER VILLAINS.
WHERE'D THEY GO?
IT STARTS FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS...

A YOUNG BOY ABANDONED BY HIS BIOLOGICAL FATHER.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, JONAH. MY BROTHER AND HIS WIFE WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.
BUT THEY DIDN'T--

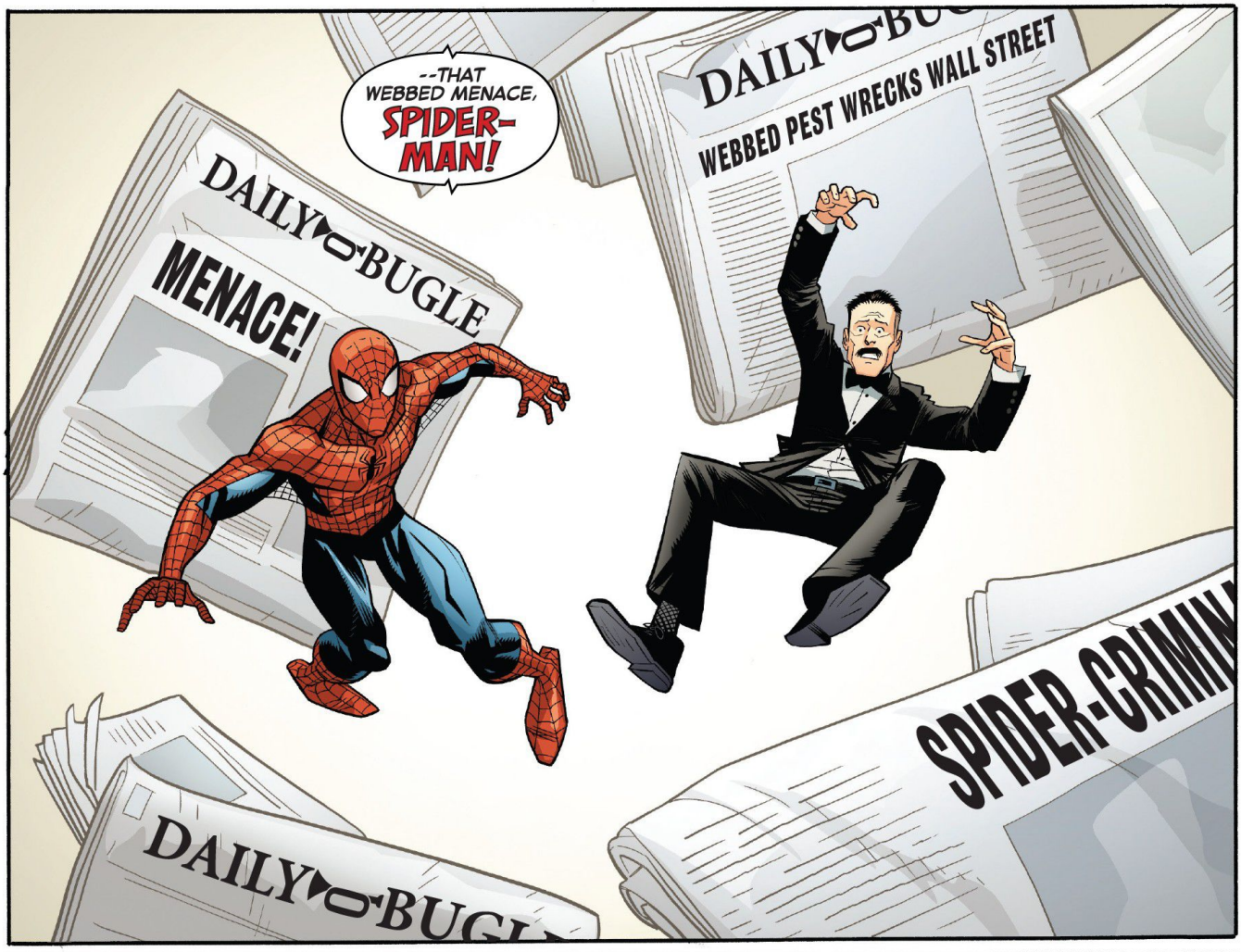
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK BACK TO ME!
--HE GREW UP IN A TOUGH, BROKEN HOME. WITH SO MUCH ADVERSITY AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, HE COULD'VE SIMPLY FADED INTO THE BACKGROUND.
BUT NO! THROUGH SHEER WILLPOWER, HE PULLED HIMSELF UP BY HIS BOOTSTRAPS AND FOUND HIS TRUE CALLING--
--JOURNALISM!
FIRST AS A MILITARY CORRESPONDENT, THEN ON TO HIS HOME AT THE DAILY BUGLE. HE BECAME THE VOICE OF A CITY, A FEARLESS SPEAKER OF TRUTHS-- HE IS--
PRESS
J.! JONAH! JAMESON! JUNIOR!
WHAT-- WHAT IS THIS?
I DON'T KNOW...
...BUT I LIKE IT!
OH GOD.
IT'S A MUSEUM OF JONAH.
THIS IS MY WORST NIGHTMARE.
"OH, YOU HAVE NO IDEA, SPIDER-MAN..."


...AND THIS NIGHTMARE IS JUST BEGINNING.
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN-- LMDs, HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS, MIND-ALTERING GAS COMPOUNDS TO INDUCE SHARED HALLUCINATIONS, THIS WHOLE SETUP IS A DOOZY!
AND THEY HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO THE BEST STUFF YET--THEY'RE JUST COMING UP TO THE INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS! I CAN'T WAIT--
AND NEITHER CAN I, ARCADE. SOON J. JONAH JAMESON WILL KNOW THE TRUTH...
...AND SPIDER-MAN WILL BE NO MORE. THE ROOM IS READY?
JUST LIKE YOU ORDERED.
GOOD. BUT BEFORE WE HAVE TOO MUCH FUN--
--I NEED TO PUT ON MY SUIT.
YOU REALIZE THIS IS A DEATH TRAP, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT! IT COULD BE A REWARD TRAP! AN ENCOURAGEMENT TRAP! WHOEVER DID THIS OBVIOUSLY HAS GREAT TASTE. JUST LOOK AT--
WAAAH! WAAAH!

--THAT.
I--I KNOW THIS PLACE. IT'S OUR OLD NURSERY. AND THAT BABY...
THESE WERE SOME OF JONAH'S HAPPIEST DAYS...
IT'S MY SON, JOHN! LOOK AT 'IM, WEB-HEAD! YOU EVER SEE A CUTER BOY?
HE'S A LOT LESS HAIRY THAN I REMEMBER.
GOOCHIE GOOCHIE GOO...
I WILL ADMIT, THIS BABY'S ROOM DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY BLASTER CANNONS OR SPIKED WALLS...
OF COURSE IT DOESN'T! JOAN WOULDN'T EVEN LET HIM HAVE A--
BLAM!
BUT THEN TRAGEDY STRUCK...

JOAN!
...WHEN HIS FIRST WIFE WAS KILLED BY A MASKED GUNMAN.
I WASN'T THERE. I WASN'T THERE TO PROTECT HER. I WAS AT--
CLACK CLACK CLACK
--THE OFFICE. MY OLD DESK--IT'S A PERFECT RECREATION...
AFTER JOAN'S DEATH, JONAH POURED HIMSELF INTO HIS WORK. HE CLIMBED UP THE RANKS FROM LOWLY REPORTER--
--ALL THE WAY TO THE EDITOR IN CHIEF'S CHAIR AT THE DAILY BUGLE!
IT WASN'T EASY--ESPECIALLY RAISING JOHN ON MY OWN...
BUT HE RAISED HIM RIGHT...

...AND JOHN BECAME A FINE MAN OF HIS OWN! A CELEBRATED ASTRONAUT TASKED WITH A VITAL EXPERIMENTAL MISSION!
I WAS SO PROUD. MY BOY, UP IN THE STARS...
ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT IT WAS LIKE IN ONE OF THESE THINGS.
YEAH, NOT ME. TRUST ME, I'VE BEEN TO OUTER SPACE. EVERYONE'S REALLY RUDE.
BUT THEN DANGER STRUCK--
RUUUMBBBLLLEEE
--AND SO BEGAN THE GREAT BATTLE THAT WOULD DEFINE J. JONAH JAMESON'S LIFE. HIS ETERNAL CRUSADE TO MAKE KNOWN THE EVILS OF--
AAAAND THIS IS THE PART WHERE IT GETS AWKWARD.


--THAT WEBBED MENACE, SPIDER-MAN!
DAILY BUGLE
MENACE!
DAILY BUGLE
WEBBED PEST WRECKS WALL STREET
SPIDER-CRIMIN
DAILY BUGL

CRIMINAL MASTERMIND, IRRESPONSIBLE AND JUVENILE PRANKSTER--HE WAS TO BECOME JAMESON'S GREATEST ENEMY.
OH COME ON.
WHAT?! YOU WERE A CRIMINAL!

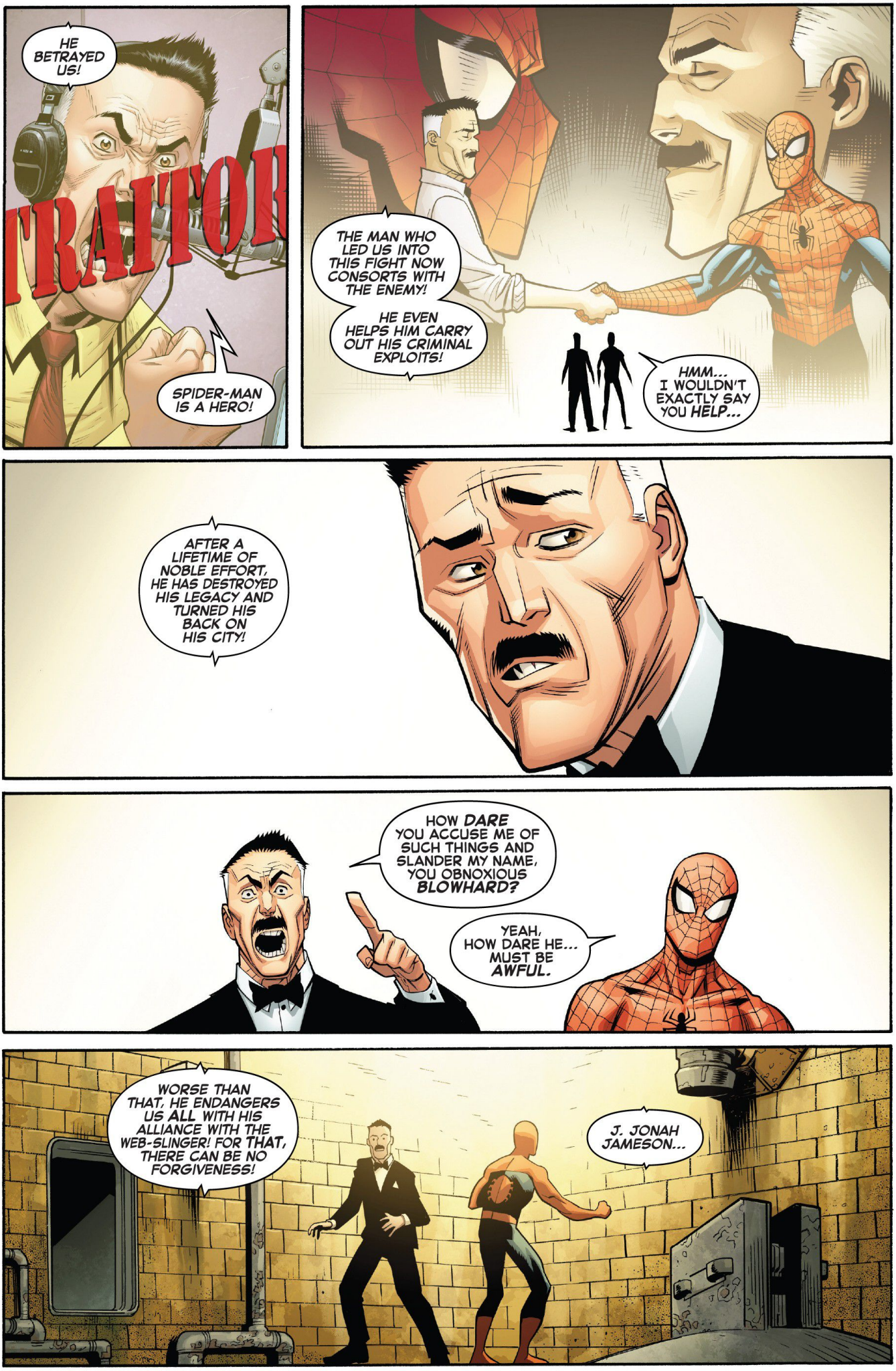
AGAIN AND AGAIN, HE TRIED TO WARN THEM--OF THE RECKLESS, PERVASIVE EVIL THE WALL-CRAWLER PRESENTED!
HOW HIS VERY PRESENCE WAS AN AFFRONT TO SOCIETY AND A SIGN OF OUR DECAYING GREATNESS!
HOW HIS EXISTENCE WOULD LEAD TO IMMEASURABLE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.
OKAY, I'LL ADMIT I MAY HAVE OVERSTATED SOME THINGS.

BUT NO MATTER WHAT JONAH DID, SOME STILL ACCEPTED THIS INTERLOPER, THIS FRAUD! EVEN REAL HEROES!
ALAS, HE WAS LEFT WITH NO CHOICE--
4
4

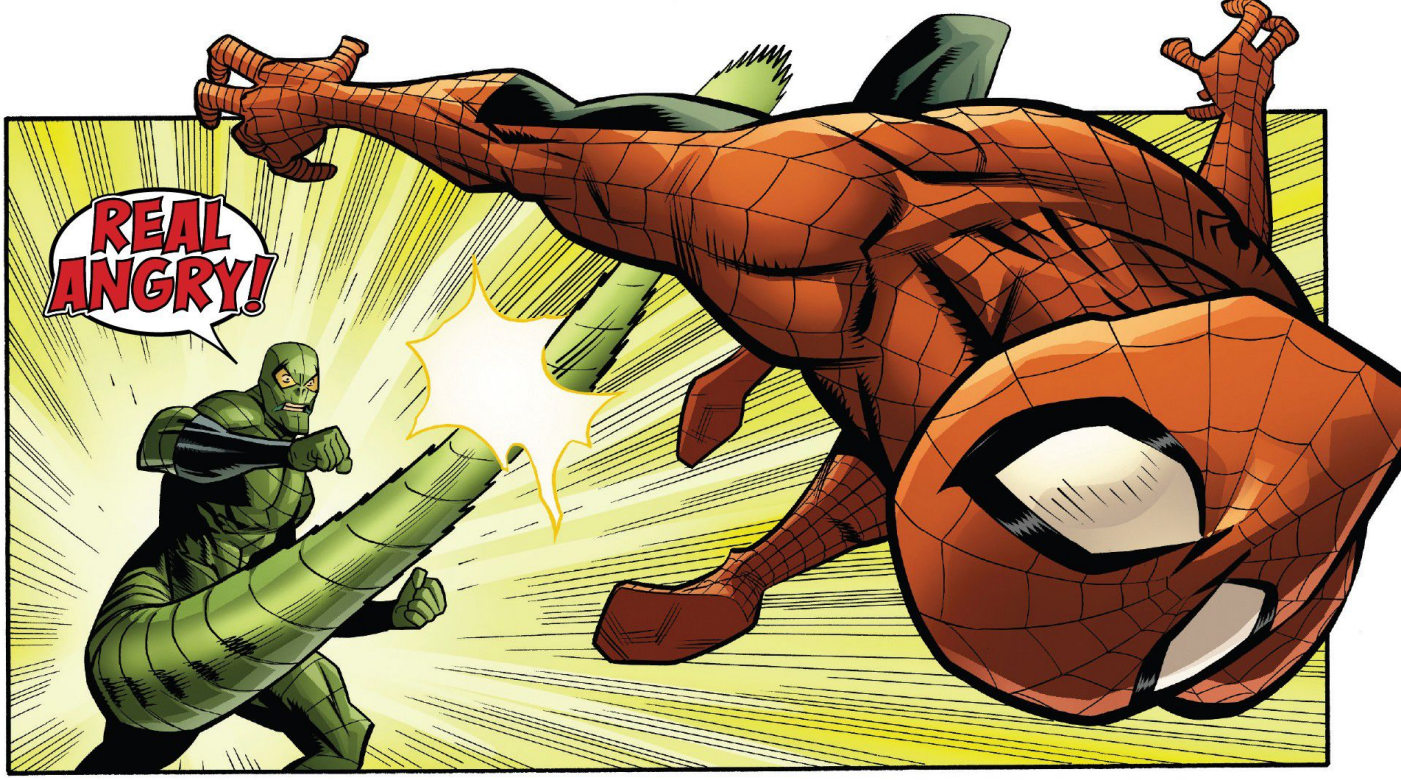
--HE HAD TO TAKE MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS.
GOOD NEWS, MR. JAMESON! THE SCORPION FORMULA IS NEARLY COMPLETE--
--AND OUR TEST SUBJECT WILL SOON BE ABLE TO RID THE WORLD OF SPIDER-MAN ONCE AND FOR ALL!
GARGAN... GEEZ, JONAH. MAYBE HE WAS A BAD GUY, BUT--THIS?
I--I THOUGHT IT WAS NECESSARY...
BUT THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF HIS EFFORTS...
THE SPIDER-SLAYER WILL OBEY YOUR EVERY COMMAND, JONAH! WHY, YOU CAN EVEN PILOT IT YOURSELF!
WOW...AN ORIGINAL MODEL. HAVEN'T SEEN ONE OF THESE IN YEARS...
HEY!
HEH. STILL GOT IT...
THERE WERE OTHER ATTEMPTS, NONE SUCCESSFUL.
OH COME ON! THAT ONE WASN'T EVEN REALLY ME!
DEACON FORCED POOR FARLEY TO GIVE HIM FLY POWERS AT GUNPOINT!
BUT THEN, A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH--

--WHEN JONAH MET THE SECOND LOVE OF HIS LIFE.
MARLA!
THIS NEW ITERATION OF THE SPIDER-SLAYER WILL SURELY MEET YOUR NEEDS, JONAH.
SHE DIDN'T LIKE ME MUCH AT FIRST. HATED THE CIGARS...
BUT WE BONDED OVER LONG NIGHTS IN THE LAB, FANTASIZING ABOUT ALL THE WAYS WE COULD KILL YOU--ER, I MEAN, BRING YOU TO JUSTICE!
YEAH-- UNFF--A REAL STORYBOOK ROMANCE! LIKE A STEPHEN KING NOVEL!
I'D BEEN ALONE FOR SO LONG... MEETING HER, IT WAS LIKE ALL MY DREAMS CAME TRUE. AND THEN ONE DAY SHE WAS JUST-- JUST--
GONE...
AND SHE WASN'T THE ONLY PERSON HE'D LOSE...

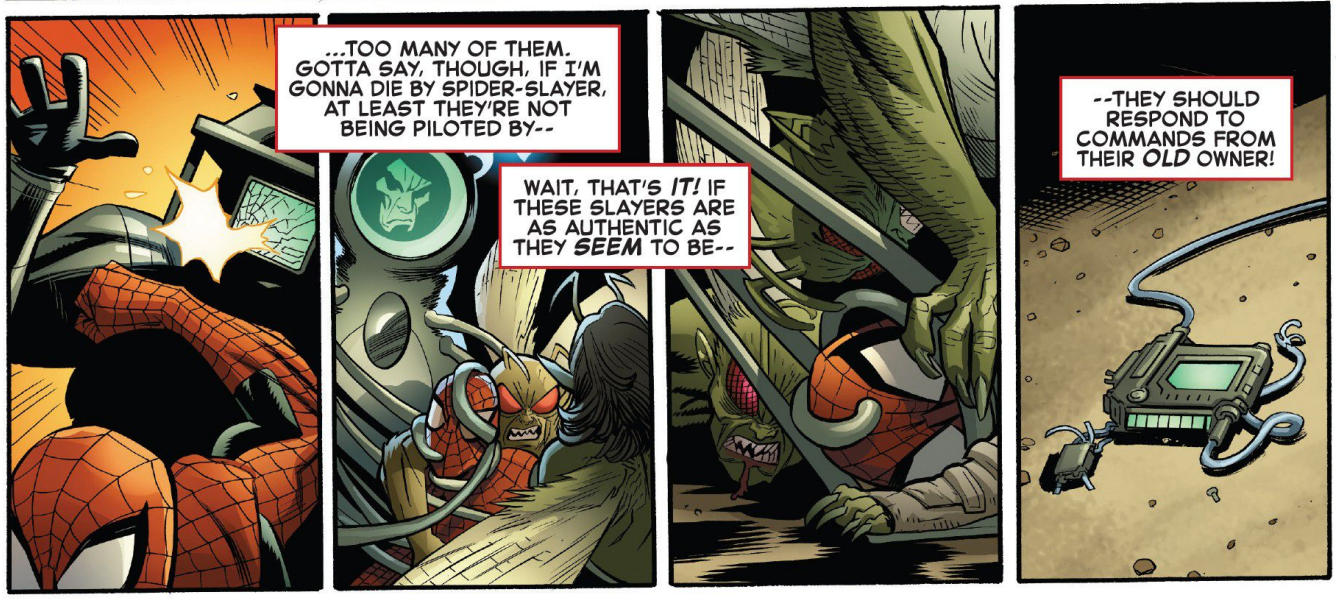
HE WAS REUNITED WITH HIS BIOLOGICAL FATHER ONLY TO SEE HIM DIE.
DAD...
HE LOST ONE OF HIS BEST FRIENDS AND REPORTERS TO DIRECTLY SPIDER-RELATED VIOLENCE...
FOSWELL!
TESSA... I'M...I'M SO SORRY. FREDRICK, HE WAS--
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID TO US, JONAH? YOU SAID NO MATTER WHAT--
FREDERICK FOSWELL
THAT WEBBED MENACE WILL DIE FOR WHAT HE DID...
BUT THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED-- SOMETHING TERRIBLE-- AFTER YEARS OF FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT--
VOTE JJJ.


HE BETRAYED US!
TRAITOR
SPIDER-MAN IS A HERO!
THE MAN WHO LED US INTO THIS FIGHT NOW CONSORTS WITH THE ENEMY!
HE EVEN HELPS HIM CARRY OUT HIS CRIMINAL EXPLOITS!
HMM... I WOULDN'T EXACTLY SAY YOU HELP...
AFTER A LIFETIME OF NOBLE EFFORT, HE HAS DESTROYED HIS LEGACY AND TURNED HIS BACK ON HIS CITY!
HOW DARE YOU ACCUSE ME OF SUCH THINGS AND SLANDER MY NAME, YOU OBNOXIOUS BLOWHARD?
YEAH, HOW DARE HE... MUST BE AWFUL.
WORSE THAN THAT, HE ENDANGERS US ALL WITH HIS ALLIANCE WITH THE WEB-SLINGER! FOR THAT, THERE CAN BE NO FORGIVENESS!
J. JONAH JAMESON...

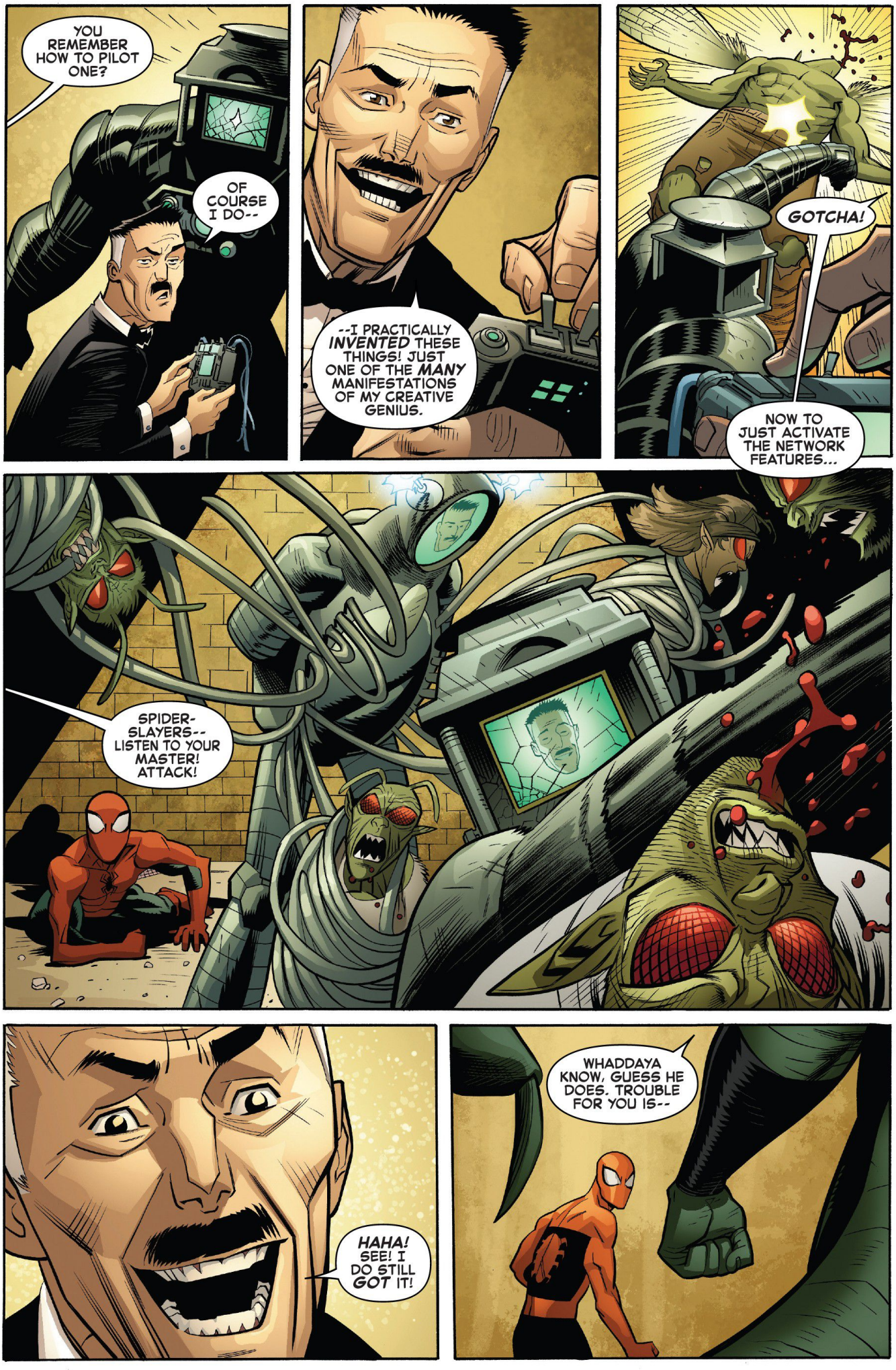
...THIS IS WHERE YOUR STORY ENDS!
I WAS WONDERING WHERE THESE GUYS HAD GONE...
YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS IS?
QUIET!
NO, I'M JUST SAYING--OLD GROUCHY RICH GUY GETS A VISIT FROM GHOSTS OF HIS PAST, AT CHRISTMAS, CAUSING HIM TO REFLECT ON HIS LIFE?
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THIS MOVIE BEFORE!
BIG FAN OF THE MUPPET VERSION.
AW, YOU NEVER KNOW, THOUGH, WEB-HEAD--
--MIGHT END DIFFERENT THIS TIME. DON'T REMEMBER SCROOGE GETTING HIS HEAD RIPPED OFF BY A SCORPION TAIL.
EH, THERE'S A LOT OF TAKES. HEY, GARGAN--THE REST OF THESE CLOWNS ARE EITHER LMDs OR CLONES, BUT YOU SMELL LIKE THE REAL THING.
OH YEAH, I'M REAL.


REAL ANGRY!

OOF! GARGAN STILL PACKS A PUNCH. BAD GUYS EVERYWHERE NOW...


...TOO MANY OF THEM. GOTTA SAY, THOUGH, IF I'M GONNA DIE BY SPIDER-SLAYER, AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT BEING PILOTED BY--
WAIT, THAT'S *IT!* IF THESE SLAYERS ARE AS AUTHENTIC AS THEY *SEEM* TO BE--
--THEY SHOULD RESPOND TO COMMANDS FROM THEIR *OLD* OWNER!

JONAH! UNFF--THE *REMOTE*-- *GET* IT! YOU CAN--
I KNOW WHAT TO DO!


YOU REMEMBER HOW TO PILOT ONE?
OF COURSE I DO--
--I PRACTICALLY *INVENTED* THESE THINGS! JUST ONE OF THE *MANY* MANIFESTATIONS OF MY CREATIVE GENIUS.
GOTCHA!
NOW TO JUST ACTIVATE THE NETWORK FEATURES...
SPIDER-SLAYERS-- LISTEN TO YOUR MASTER! ATTACK!
HAHA! SEE! I DO STILL *GOT* IT!
WHADDAYA KNOW, GUESS HE DOES. TROUBLE FOR YOU IS--

--SO DO I!
I'LL ADMIT--THIS WHOLE EXPERIENCE IS REALLY TAKING ME BACK.
TRUTH IS, JONAH AND I HAVE HAD A PRETTY TORTURED HISTORY.
FOR YEARS, WE WERE AT EACH OTHER'S *THROATS*.
BUT THAT WAS THEN--
--THIS IS NOW!
EVER SINCE I REVEALED MY IDENTITY TO JJJ, HE'S BEEN TRYING TO CHANGE...

BUT I HAVE TO DO MY PART, TOO.
WHICH STARTS WITH NOT LETTING THE SCORPION KILL HIM!

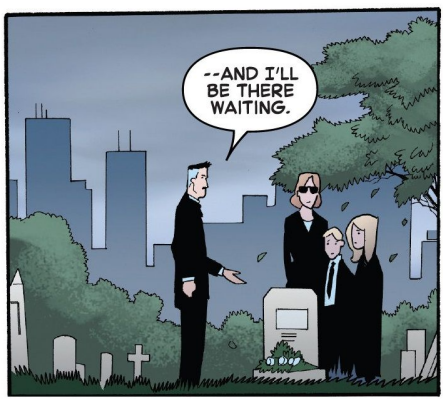
THING I KEEP COMING BACK TO LATELY--

--WE ALL DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE. THE TRICK--

--IS FIGURING OUT HOW TO LET THE PAST GO!
OR KNOCK IT UNCONSCIOUS. ONE OF THE TWO.

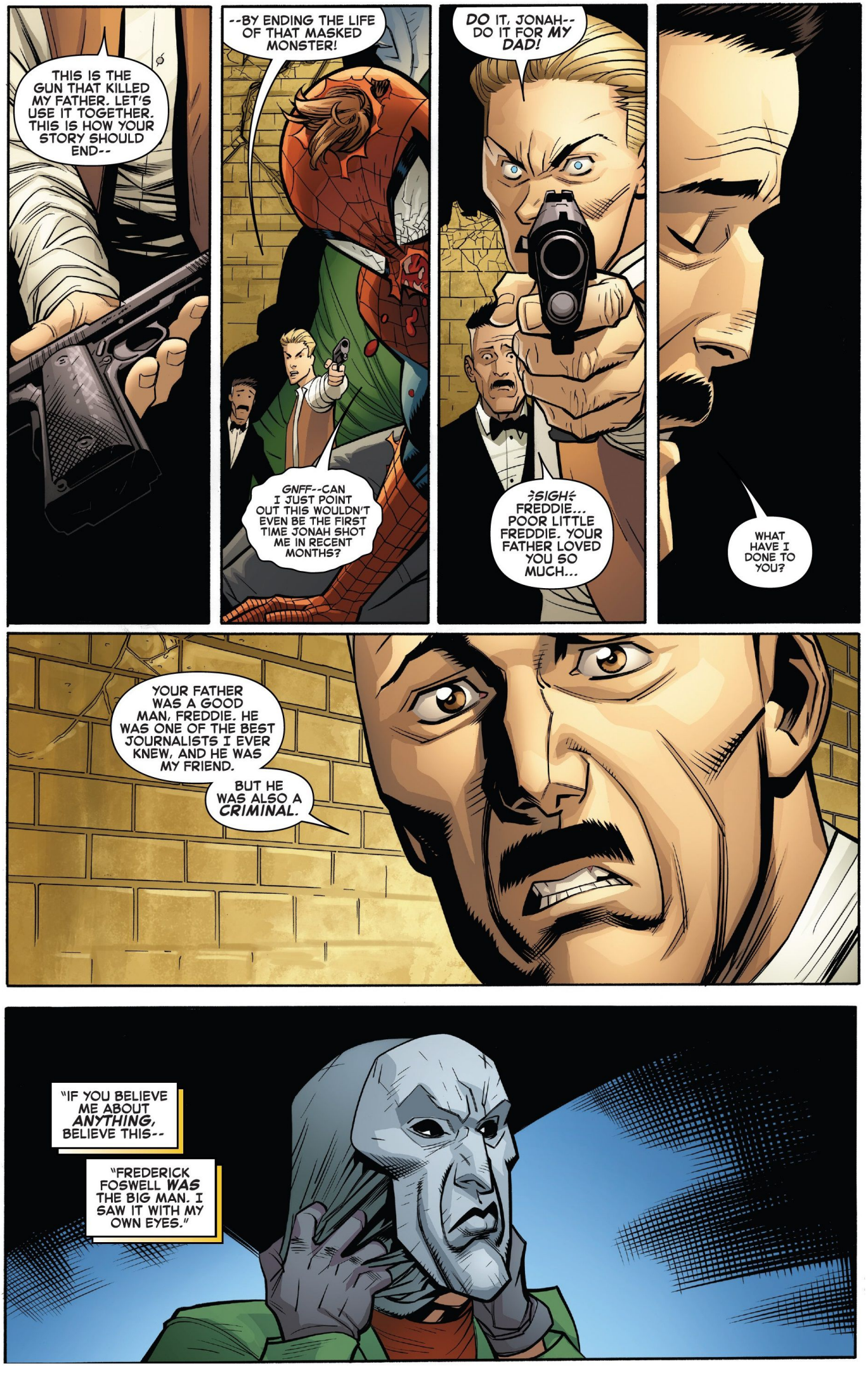
OKAY, WELL, IF *THAT* WRAPS THE WORLD'S WORST EPISODE OF *BIOGRAPHY*--
CONGRATULATIONS!

CRASH
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID. SOMEDAY, HE'D MAKE A MISTAKE--


--AND I'LL BE THERE WAITING.

THOSE WORDS-- I DID SAY THAT--
FOSWELL?
THAT'S RIGHT, JONAH--

--FREDERICK FOSWELL JR., TO BE PRECISE!
AND IF THAT NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR, IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE A LOT OF HISTORY WITH IT. NOT THIS GUY--


THIS IS THE GUN THAT KILLED MY FATHER. LET'S USE IT TOGETHER. THIS IS HOW YOUR STORY SHOULD END--
--BY ENDING THE LIFE OF THAT MASKED MONSTER!
GNFF--CAN I JUST POINT OUT THIS WOULDN'T EVEN BE THE FIRST TIME JONAH SHOT ME IN RECENT MONTHS?
DO IT, JONAH-- DO IT FOR MY DAD!
;SIGH; FREDDIE... POOR LITTLE FREDDIE. YOUR FATHER LOVED YOU SO MUCH...
WHAT HAVE I DONE TO YOU?
YOUR FATHER WAS A GOOD MAN, FREDDIE. HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST JOURNALISTS I EVER KNEW, AND HE WAS MY FRIEND.
BUT HE WAS ALSO A CRIMINAL.
"IF YOU BELIEVE ME ABOUT ANYTHING, BELIEVE THIS--
"FREDERICK FOSWELL WAS THE BIG MAN. I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES."

HE FELL INTO THE IDENTITY AND GREW ADDICTED TO THE SENSE OF POWER IT GAVE HIM.
HE TRIED TO GO STRAIGHT AFTER THE FIRST TIME, AND I TRIED TO GIVE HIM A SECOND CHANCE. BUT HE CRACKED UNDER THE PRESSURE AND RELAPSED.
"IT ALL LED TO THAT FATEFUL NIGHT WITH THE KINGPIN--
"--WHEN HE DIED IN MY ARMS."
BUT HERE'S THE THING, FREDDIE. I'M THE ONE WHO APPLIED THAT PRESSURE.
I HOUNDED HIM AND HARASSED HIM. I PLAYED TO HIS INSECURITIES AND MADE HIM FEARFUL OF LOSING HIS JOB AGAIN.
I TOLD MYSELF I HAD TO, TO KEEP HIM ON THE RIGHT PATH.
BUT THE TRUTH IS I WAS FOSWELL'S WORST ENEMY. AND EVEN STILL HE TOOK THAT BULLET THAT WAS INTENDED FOR ME.
SO IF YOU REALLY WANT TO PUNISH THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR FATHER'S DEATH--
--POINT THAT GUN OVER HERE, SON.
--I'LL JUST KILL YOU BOTH!
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET YOU HURT HIM, FREDDIE--
--NOT WHEN I STILL GOT IT.
HUH?
HOLD STILL, SON...

NO!
BLAM
MOMENTS LATER...
LITTLE FREDDIE...
HE NEEDS HELP, NOT A JAIL CELL.
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE ANYBODY LISTENS TO ME--
1354
--GIVEN MY PUBLIC REPUTATION AND ALL.
ALL THIS DAMAGE I'VE DONE-- TO YOU, TO THAT POOR KID, TO THE UNTOLD MILLIONS SWAYED BY MY MASTERFUL WRITING--HOW MANY LIVES HAVE BEEN RUINED?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE ALL OF THIS RIGHT?
SIGH IT WASN'T ALL BAD, JONAH. YOU ARE THE SAME GUY WHO DID GIVE FOSWELL SR. A SECOND CHANCE. PLENTY OF PEOPLE WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT. HECK, YOU GAVE ME A SHOT WHEN I WAS JUST A TEENAGE KID WHOSE UNCLE HAD DIED!
I'VE WATCHED YOU STAND UP TO MOBSTERS AND TERRORISTS. WATCHED YOU STICK TO YOUR PRINCIPLES EVEN WHEN IT COST YOU EVERYTHING. THERE'S PLENTY OF GOOD IN YOU.

MEANWHILE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "IF I DON'T GET PAID, YOU DON'T GET PAID?"
WE HAD A DEAL, ARCADE! I NEED THAT MONEY! I--
BOOP BOOP
BABY? HEY, NO--I'M ON THE OTHER LINE. LISTEN, I--I THINK WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO CANCEL THE ST. LUCIA TRIP.
NO, I KNOW--IT'S JUST A LITTLE FUNDS SITUATION, NOTHING PERMANENT.
THAT'S WHAT I'M ON THE OTHER LINE ABOUT!
NO!
YES, I KNOW WE'RE GONNA LOSE THE DEPOSIT! WHY DO YOU THINK I--
RAAAAARRRR!
I HEAR YA, PAL--
--RELATIONSHIPS ARE HARD.
WHY I STICK TO eHARMONY.

WHAT DO YOU TWO WANT?! YOU LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?! 'CAUSE SCORPION CAN GIVE YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN--
BLANG
HNNN?
RAAARR! LET ME OUTTA HERE!
DON'T BOTHER. IF YOU DO MANAGE TO GET OUT...

...THEY JUST HUNT YOU DOWN AGAIN.
TO BE CONTINUED!

STAN'S SOAPBOX · SEPTEMBER 1967

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Many Keepers of the Faith have demanded that we take a more definite stand on current problems such as Viet Nam, civil rights, and the increase in crime, to name a few. We've a hunch that most Marvel madmen pretty well know where we stand on such matters—and we've long believed that our first duty is to entertain, rather than editorialize. Of course, you've probably noticed that it's not too easy to keep our own convictions out of the soul-stirring sagas we toss at you—but, in our own bumbling fashion, we do try. Anyway, since it's YOU who are the true editors of Marveldom, it's time for another impassioned poll! Should we editorialize more — or less — or keep things in their present fouled-up form? We'll announce the verdict as soon as one of us learns to count so we can tabulate the votes. But, till then, in case you haven't noticed, we've got a little suggestion for you. Namely—THINK MARVEL! That's it, Believer!

STAN LEE
FOREVER

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hang loose, heroes! Now that I've got your ear, I'm not lettin' go! Our first tintinnabulating topic is gonna be: "The Marvel Philosophy." Whenever I get together with any of you frantic ones, the first question posed is usually "What are you fellas really trying to DO in your mags? What message are you pushin'? Is the whole Marvel series just a big put-on, or are you trying to TELL us something? Are you actually serious about your characters—do you really believe in 'em—? Etc." Well, just between us, we believe in our cavortin' characters a lot more than we believe in some people we know, and we do have a motive—a purpose—behind our mags! That purpose is, plain and simple — to entertain you! We think we've found the best formula of all—we merely create the type of fanciful yarns that we ourselves enjoy—and, if we like 'em, you oughtta like 'em, too; after all, you're our kinda people! Now then, in the process of providing off-beat entertainment, if we can also do our bit to advance the cause of intellectualism, humanitarianism, and mutual understanding...and to toss a little swingin' satire at you in the process . . . that won't break our collective heart one tiny bit! That's it, pussycat! Thanks for listenin'!